

Dan Rattiner's Podcast: Siamak Samii, Architect

Dan's Papers

Volume LXII / Issue 1 / January 6, 2023

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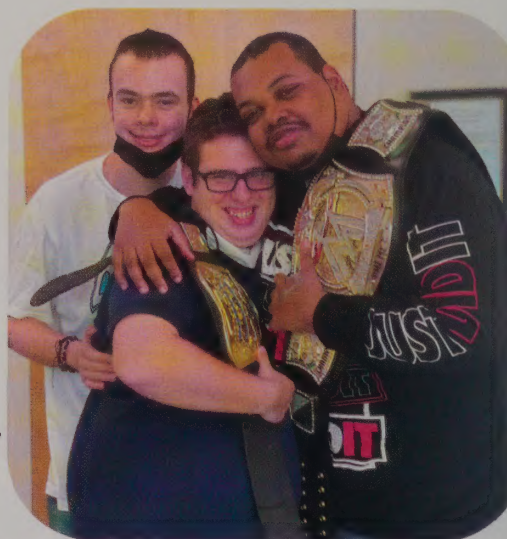


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A full-page photograph of Jean Shafiroff on the left side of the page. She is wearing a light blue, strapless, floor-length gown with a ruffled bodice and a full, tiered skirt. She has her hair pulled back and is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. Her hands are raised behind her head. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

Jean Shafiroff

Leading Philanthropy with Style and Intelligence

Jean Shafiroff, philanthropist, author and TV host, is one woman who honors the art of giving in the most gracious of ways. Often referred to as the First Lady of Philanthropy by several media sources, Jean Shafiroff is a trailblazer in the community. Known for her outstanding contributions to the philanthropic world, Jean Shafiroff is a charismatic public figure who for years has successfully led a campaign promoting the power of giving. She is recognized as one of the leading authorities of philanthropy. She holds an MBA in finance from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business and has worked both in public finance and private partnerships on Wall Street. She also holds a BS in Physical Therapy from Columbia University and worked early on as a physical therapist at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City. Jean Shafiroff's business acumen and fundraising capabilities are in high demand among charitable organizations.

Jean Shafiroff's focus is on hard work and generosity, two characteristics she exemplifies. She demonstrates how individuals can have a significant impact when they focus on giving back to society. Each year she chairs between 8 to 10 charity galas and hosts and underwrites a number of charity cocktail parties in her homes.

As a humanitarian, Jean Shafiroff works to encourage others to become philanthropists. Shafiroff is the author of the book, *Successful Philanthropy: How to Make a Life By What You Give*. This highly regarded book is often used as a guiding tool by charities, donors, and volunteers alike. The book is also designed to motivate others to get involved in the giving process. Shafiroff is also the host and producer of the TV show, *Successful Philanthropy* where she interviews world leaders, international philanthropists, politicians and celebrities on their work in the philanthropic arena. Her show airs several times each week in selected markets and can also be viewed on YouTube.

Jean Shafiroff currently serves on the boards of several charities: American Humane, Southampton Hospital Association, NYC Mission Society, The New York Women's Foundation, French Heritage Society, Couture Council of the Museum at FIT, Casita Maria, Global Strays, and Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation Honorary Board. A Catholic, Shafiroff served on the board of the Jewish Board for 28 years and now is one of their Honorary Trustees.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Jean Shafiroff served as the National Spokesperson of the American Humane's Feed the Hungry COVID-19 program and was instrumental in helping them achieve their goal of raising \$1,000,000 to feed over one 1,000,000 hungry animals at 109 different animal shelters across the United States.

Jean Shafiroff has been honored many times by charities including the American Humane, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, French Heritage Society, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, Mission Society of NYC, Surgeons of Hope, Samuel Waxman Cancer Research, Operation Warrior Shield, Al Sharpton's National Action Network, The Ellen Hermanson Foundation, Health Advocates for Older People, Pet Philanthropy Circle, Animal Zone International, Southampton Animal Shelter, Youth Counselling League, the NYC International Film Festival Foundation, Jewish Board, and The Hadassah. In December 2020, Dan's Paper named Jean Shafiroff «Philanthropist of the Year» at their Long Island Power Women's Award Ceremony. On September 22, 2022, Shafiroff received a Proclamation naming her the «First Lady of Philanthropy of New York» from the New York State Assembly. On November 17, 2022, Jean Shafiroff received US Congressional Recognition in the US Congressional Record by the 117th Congress

for her philanthropy. This was presented by NYS Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright on behalf of Rep. Carolyn Maloney.

Jean Shafiroff's days are filled with work dedicated to various causes. Free time is very rare for this dedicated philanthropist. Although her four main areas of focus are women's rights, rights of underserved populations, health care and animal rights, Shafiroff is involved in supporting and giving her leadership abilities to a host of other causes. For the past number of years she has chaired the world-famous Viennese Opera Ball. This Fall she served as the New York chair of the highly regarded Casita Maria gala in NYC. In November, Jean Shafiroff served as the Honorary Chair of Holiday House NYC Designer Showcase to benefit the Breast Cancer Research Alliance. On November 17th she was honored by the French Heritage Society at their 40th Anniversary Gala in NYC. Shafiroff was also honored by Operation Warrior Shield at their Healing for Heroes Gala in NYC on November 4th.

Most recently Jean Shafiroff was at the epicenter of the fashion universe during New York Fashion Week where she stood before a crowd of thousands and took the stage as the Mistress of Ceremonies at Times Square Fashion Week 2022. It was here that Shafiroff proudly stood with NYS Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and presented «I Love New York» awards to Mark Levine, the Manhattan Borough President, and Tom Harris, of the Times Square Alliance. Shafiroff also received the «I Love New York» Award for her humanitarian work.

While working with donors and participants to join the team of givers, Jean Shafiroff is also recognized for her continued support of the LGBTQ community. «I am an LGBTQ ally and will always support the community», says Shafiroff.

Jean Shafiroff has a passion for fashion and enjoys supporting the work of both recognized and emerging designers in the fashion world. Shafiroff's love for fashion and style has led to her involvement as a longtime Board Member of the Couture Council of the Museum of the Fashion Institute of Technology. In the future, Shafiroff's passion will also take a historical mark when she will donate her private gown collection of both couture and ready to wear gowns to a museum. Shafiroff's gown collection includes several pieces by Oscar de la Renta, Carolina Herrera, B Michael, Zang Toi, Malan Breton, Victor de Souza, and Mary McFadden. These gowns include many that she has worn to some of the world's most highly recognized gala fundraisers.

Jean Shafiroff has become well-known on social media where she promotes positive living, her philanthropy and her love of fashion. With over 1,200,000 Instagram followers at @JeanShafiroff there is no stopping her undeniable influence.

Jean Shafiroff, also has a new book coming out in the spring season of 2023. The book is designed to encourage others to reach fulfillment through their living.

“My philanthropic work creates great purpose in my life,” Jean states. “I feel fortunate to be able to do it. Those that have resources have an obligation to give back. It is a great blessing to be in a position to give.”

Follow Jean Shafiroff on social media:

I: @jeanshafiroff
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Learn more about Jean Shafiroff on her website:
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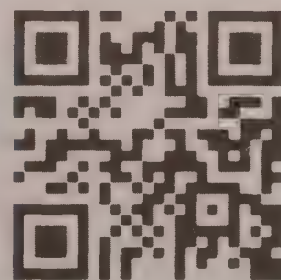
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Dan's Talks: Hosted by Dan Rattiner Podcast Guest: Siamak Samii

Episode 113: This week on the "Dan's Talks" podcast, Dan speaks with Siamak Samii, Southampton architect. Established in 1988, Siamak Samii Architect PC is an architecture and urban design firm that specializes in residential, cultural and academic institutional planning projects. Some of his high-profile projects include the Southampton African American Museum and the Teepee Retreat.

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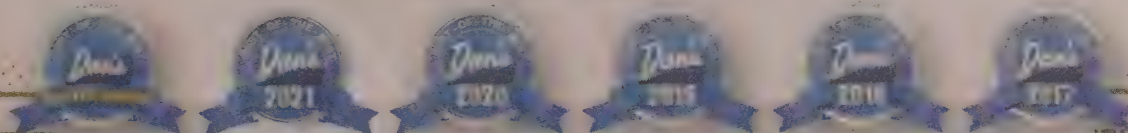


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ANDY COHEN

BY FLO ANTHONY

Bravolebrity **Andy Cohen** returned to co-host CNN's *New Year's Eve Live* with his good buddy **Anderson Cooper**. Prior to the broadcast, CNN announced a drinking ban for the live telecast. Following the announcement, Cohen, who owns a home in Amagansett, teased that the new rule might not include Cooper or himself. Cohen told *Rolling Stone*, "CNN said the correspondents will

not be drinking. Anderson and I will be the people partying on CNN (though), we will be partying responsibly." In 2021, while allegedly a bit tipsy, Cohen annoyed **Ryan Seacrest**, who was hosting rival ABC's *Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve Show*, by calling the special, "Ryan Seacrest's group of losers" live on the air.

On December 27, Amagansett's **Gwyneth Paltrow** was joined on the goop podcast by **Kim Kardashian**. According to *Us*

Weekly, on her podcast, Paltrow praised Kardashian, stating, "For me, she is fascinating because she challenges so many ideas of what a woman is supposed to be, and how she is supposed to look and behave while doing it." The compliment did not sit well with **Bethenny Frankel**, who owns a home in Bridgehampton. The former *Real Housewives of New York City* cast member, who has been critical of the Kardashian/Jenner reality stars in the past, wrote on Instagram on December 29, "I mean LOL." Back in August, Frankel criticized the packaging of Kardashian's skincare line, SKKN, describing it as "impractical" due to its round shape.

Actor **Neil Patrick Harris**, who resides in East Hampton, is a

member of the cast of *Doctor Who*. UPI reported that the BBC recently released a one-minute trailer for the sci-fi television show's upcoming three 60th anniversary specials, which will premiere in November 2023. In a statement, showrunner **Russell T. Davis** said of the trailer, "We wanted to give fans, friends and families a lovely little Christmas present — with a promise that 2023 will be a riot of *Doctor Who* goodness." It has not been announced as of yet what character Harris will portray.

Southampton's celebrity philanthropist **Jean Shafiroff** threw her yearly holiday cocktail party at her Manhattan residence on Park Avenue on December 15. The soirée honored the New York Women's Foundation. The evening included



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a performance on the piano by Broadway musician **Michael Ferrara**, which was followed by a lovely solo sung by fashion designer **Malan Breton**. A gown by Breton was among the three dresses **Shafiroff** wore throughout the evening that also included dresses by two of her other favorite designers: **Carolina Herrera** and **Victor de Souza**. Notable attendees included husband **Martin Shafiroff**, Manhattan Borough President **Mark Levine**, Southampton resident New York State Assemblywoman **Rebecca Seawright**, **Rita Cosby**, Bridgehampton residents **Ken and Maria Fishel**, **Susan Gutfreund** and **Tony Bowles**.

On December 23, the Southampton family of **Kelly Ripa**, **Mark Consuelos** and their daughter **Lola** were spotted at Lincoln Center at the New York City Ballet enjoying a performance of *The Nutcracker*, reports *OK! Magazine*. The *Live with Kelly and Ryan* co-host posted several

photos on Instagram, including where the *Riverdale* star romantically kissed her cheek. Ripa captioned the pictures, "Christmas Eve-eve. Our favorite holiday tradition."

We Hear ...

Southampton residents **Brooke Shields**, her husband **Chris Henchy** and their daughters **Rowan** and **Grier** enjoyed Christmas Eve dinner at the Polo Bar on Manhattan's East Side, reports the *New York Post's* "Page Six."

Madonna, who owns an estate in Bridgehampton, took her four younger children, **David Banda**, **Mercy James** and twins **Stella** and **Estere** to Malawi, Africa for the holidays. The family was spotted having fun and supporting *Raising Malawi*, a charity the Queen of Pop founded in 2006, according to *People Magazine*. Madonna adopted the children in Malawi between 2006 and 2017.

Sightings ...

Sagaponack resident **Padma Lakshmi** strolling around New York City on December 28.

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JACQUELINE MOORE - Photo Editor
jmoore@danspapers.com



Beth Josephs, Samantha Gonzalez,
Ashley Edmund (Local Woold Co.)



Guests admire Maker's Market wares

The Church's Second Annual Maker's Market

The Church in Sag Harbor hosted their second annual Maker's Market. With April Gornik and Eric Fischl's purchase of the space, it created an opportunity for local artists to debut their artworks of every variety. This paved the way for Keith Green to stand out among the crowd with a dollhouse created from scratch, which perfectly emulates his former family home, on display. Green gifted this dollhouse to his granddaughter, Barrett Green, and everyone had the chance to appreciate it. A total 26 phenomenal local makers and artisans filled the room, their works ranging from art to clothing to home goods that guests came to admire. With painting workshops available and delicious food and drink to partake in, it was fun for the whole family.

PHOTOS BY LISA TAMBURINI, PHILIP MERRITT



Sheri Pasquarella (The Church Exec. Director),
April Gornik (Founder), Holly Giloth



Tanya and Temidra Willock (Hidden Gem)



Chris Russel, Susan Manoussof (Tasteful Skin)



Brittany Torres (Hamptons Handpoured)



Barrett's Dollhouse



Barrett Green, Lindsey Green, Keith Green with Barrett's Dollhouse

Southampton's 19th Annual Polar Bear Plunge

Heart of the Hamptons has done it again! With their 19th annual Polar Bear Plunge raising over \$200,000, their fundraising efforts over the years have now totaled more than \$1 million. The proceeds from this event provide financial support and food to members of the community. Over 300 participants spent the cold winter morning diving into the ocean at Coopers Beach in Southampton in support.

PHOTOS BY BRUCE MERMELSTEIN



Brian Mott, John Hynan, Jimmy Mack



Plunge sign-up with Nancy Wayne



Ocean dash



Twomey Latham, Christopher Kelley and friends

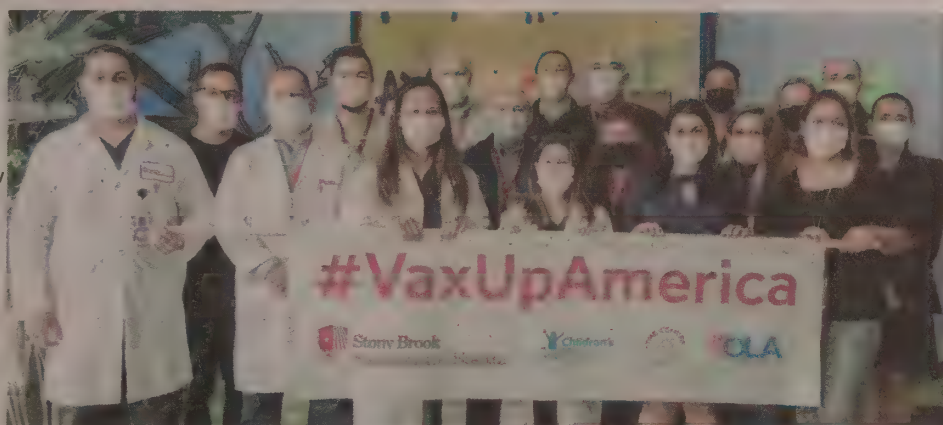


Ocean Rescue Team

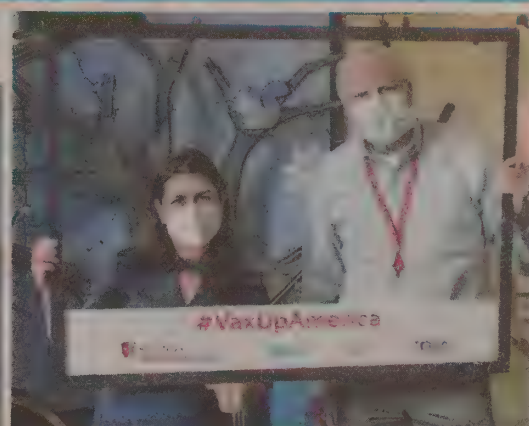
Stony Brook #VaxesUp

Stony Brook Hospital was recognized to be a part of the White House initiative #VaxUpAmerica after having admitted over 100,000 COVID-19 vaccinations while partnered with local community organizations. Dara Kass, MD, Regional Director for Region 2: NY, NJ, PR, US, VI, Office of the Secretary for the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services acknowledged their hard work and made an appearance to thank them personally for their service.

PHOTOS BY LISA TAMBURINI



Stony Brook Hospital staff, Dara Kass



Dara Kass, MD, Regional Director for Region 2, Office of the Secretary for the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Fredric Weinbaum, MD, CMO, COO, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital

Danielle FASHION PIC OF THE WEEK



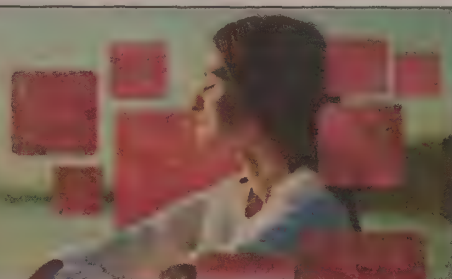
STEVE MILLER

Seen at: The Church, Sag Harbor
What we love: A very fashionable look, with a cashmere scarf adding a lovely pop of color to bring it all together.

PHOTO: LISA TAMBURINI

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Pindar's Sip & Serenade

It was a lovely night at Pindar Vineyards for guests to sip wine while listening to the New Millennium Jazz Band perform a number of covers of Frank Sinatra, Michael Bublé, Bobby Darin and Dean Martin. It was the first of many Friday Night Music events hosted by the vineyard. With the toe-tapping music provided, it was a cozy evening calling for any and all wine-lovers. Who doesn't love listening to the sweet sound of classic music with a soothing glass of cabernet?

PHOTOS BY PINDAR DAMIANOS, JOYCE CARRELL



Owner Pindar Damianos, Joan MacNaughton



New Millennium Jazz Band, Jimmy Osbourne on piano



Joyce Carrell



Ed Cheslak, Alyssa and Lenore Paprocky



Joan MacNaughton, Joe and Ruthanne McCormack, Kathleen McCormack-Knigge, Sarah McCormack, Kyle Knigge, Connor McCormack

LongHouse Reserve's Spirit of the Garden Harvest

East Hampton's LongHouse Reserve hosted its Spirit of the Garden: Harvest to celebrate Native American Heritage Month and the recent harvest season. With co-hosts Megan and Scott Chaskey, the families in attendance got to enjoy her Circle of Life puppet show and his reading of "Old Coyote Woman." Shinnecock Nation dancers performed to medicine songs as guests decorated their mandalas with corn, beans and squash. The festivities provided in this celebration of life created a space to not only enjoy a fun event, but to appreciate what the world has to offer.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD LEWIN



Edmund Choo, Jung Hwa Song, Wylie and Chance Song-Choo



Scott and Megan Chaskey, Peshach and Nasha Hill, Rebecca Genia, Rainbow Hill-Chavis, Carrie Barratt



Edward Zarur, Gail Bomze, Aiden Zarur, Hannah Bomze



Meredith Burns, Jill Brand



Rebecca Genia and Megan Chaskey play music

WHBPAC's Melodies & Memories

WHBPAC provided a free performance of Melodies & Memories. Performers spent months developing theater and music skills from experienced and professional Teaching Artists in the performing arts program for seniors. These old-timers showed that they still had the pipes to sing their hearts out to classic songs. With their audience of family and friends seeing such a performance on the WHBPAC stage, it was a night to remember for sure.

PHOTOS BY RICK SEIGLEMAN



Joan Petrella sings "The Sound of Music"



Isabel Vincent, Nancy Burner Esq., Michael Schwen, WHB Chamber of Commerce member Ari Goodman



Mayor Maria Z. Moore, Patty Schaefer, Britt Burner Esq.



Mara Zonderman, Barbara Bossharb, Gloria McGuire, Sharon Reichman



WHBPAC Exec. Director Julianne Penza-Booone, Melodies & Memories Director Kasia Klimiuk

Notable Sightings



Iconic entertainment legend Tony Danza performs live at The Suffolk in his show, "Tony Danza: Standards & Stories"

PHOTO BY PHILIP MERRITT

Dan's Papers 'December Gift' Photo Contest WINNER

After much deliberation and a number of fantastic candidates, William McCabe takes the cake with his Post Stop Cafe photo. Any Westhampton Beach regular knows these skeletons well as they greet passersby during the off-season in this beach village. William perfectly captures this small town tradition along with the true essence of the holidays. Because of it, William will receive a gift certificate to Union Burger Bar in Southampton, along with the chance for his work to be on the cover of *Dan's Papers*! Congratulations, William!



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NEWS & VIEWS

Caroline Hirsch & Carolines on Broadway Honored by National Comedy Center

BY OLIVER PETERSON

The National Comedy Center, the nation's official cultural institution dedicated to the art of comedy, will honor Water Mill resident Caroline Hirsch and the 40-year legacy of her iconic Carolines comedy club, by preserving artifacts from Carolines on Broadway, which will be displayed in 2023 at the National Comedy Center's state-of-the-art museum in Jamestown, New York.

Hirsch, who founded and owns Carolines on Broadway, and Journey Gunderson, Executive Director of the National Comedy Center made the announcement on Thursday at the legendary comedy club. They were joined by Ross Levi, Executive Director of I Love New York, and Tom Harris, President of the Times Square Alliance, as the club prepares for its final shows this weekend.

Earlier this month, it was announced that Carolines will not renew its lease after 30 years of presenting stand-up comedy and will close its renowned Times Square location at the end of the year.

"Caroline Hirsch has been a vital force for nurturing comedic talent for 40 years now, and Carolines on Broadway has been one of the world's most important venues for showcasing the art form of stand-up comedy," Gunderson said, adding, "Comedy material born and polished here went on to be the stuff of specials and albums seen by millions — the most widely known comedy in our cultural consciousness was often born here."

She continued, noting, "Caroline operated this club



CAROLINE HIRSCH PRESENTS JOURNEY GUNDERSON WITH AN ICONIC HARLEQUIN FROM HER CAROLINES ON BROADWAY COMEDY CLUB

in pursuit of great art and comedy is better for it. We are honored to preserve Carolines' rich legacy and tell this important story in our museum in Jamestown."

Hirsch pointed out that while her iconic venue was closing shop, her Carolines brand is not finished.

"We are so proud to have provided a platform for such incredible talent — who have brought laughter to New Yorkers and audiences from around the world here in Times Square," she said. "While our brand will continue to expand in new ways in the coming years, we're thrilled that the Carolines on Broadway story can be preserved and celebrated at the National Comedy Center for generations to come."

Items being preserved by the National Comedy Center include the iconic stage, backdrop bearing the world-renowned harlequin Carolines logo, showroom curtains, the microphone, signage, "barfly" stools and entry doors.

"For New York State, comedy is serious business because when you have one of the most famous comedy clubs in the world in New York City, coupled with the only museum dedicated to comedy in the U.S., it makes New York State a mecca for the best in comedy," Levi said, speaking as the Executive Director of I Love New York. "We look forward to Caroline's next chapter ahead and know she'll keep the comedy flame burning bright."

Harris, President of the Times Square Alliance, added, "Caroline has been an integral part of the revitalization of Times Square. While it is sad when a great show on Broadway closes, great shows go on tour, so I am looking at this as Carolines on tour to upstate New York in Jamestown. My wish for 2023 is that there will be a revival of Carolines in Times Square."

Carolines began 40 years ago in Chelsea and later moved to the South Street Seaport before calling Times Square home in 1992, playing an integral role in the resurgence of the now tourism-centric area.

The club showcased the world's greatest comedic talent through the years, including Amagansett's Jerry Seinfeld, Robin Williams, Billy Crystal, Chris Rock, Margaret Cho, Jay Leno, Michael Che, Sandra Bernhard, Wanda Sykes, Tracy Morgan, Jo Koy, Kevin Hart, Bill Burr, Rosie O'Donnell, and many, many more.

The National Comedy Center opened in 2018 and has collaborated with dozens of artists and estates to preserve materials that represent comedy's significant artistic, social, and political contributions to American culture.

The museum collections illustrate the careers of legendary artists like George Carlin, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Carl Reiner, Betty White, Johnny Carson, Lenny Bruce, The Smothers Brothers, and the development of groundbreaking creative work such as sketch comedy series *In Living Color*, *Saturday Night Live*, and more.

Within the Comedy Center's museum galleries, more than 50 interactive exhibits and immersive experiences employ cutting-edge technology to present the story of comedy from its origins to the present day — using archival documents, artifacts, and media as their core.

Its educational programming on the art form has featured George Lopez, Tiffany Haddish, Margaret Cho, Norman Lear, Hamptonite Debra Messing, Rain Pryor (daughter of Richard Pryor), Leno, Kenan Thompson, Gabriel Iglesias, Ben Stiller, John Cleese, Sagaponack's Jimmy Fallon, Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Weird Al" Yankovic and many more.

Learn more about the Comedy Center at comedy-center.org, and carolines.com to keep up with what's next for Caroline Hirsch and her iconic comedy brand.



NATIONAL COMEDY CENTER LOBBY IN JAMESTOWN, NY

COURTESY NATIONAL COMEDY CENTER

COURTESY NATIONAL COMEDY CENTER

NEWS & VIEWS

Hochul Vetos Unmarked Graves Protection Act

BY TIMOTHY BOLGER

Gov. Kathy Hochul vetoed on December 30 a bill that would have protected ancient burial grounds from excavation in New York State, sparking outrage among the Shinnecock Indian Nation.

The state Legislature passed in June the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act, which would create a committee to review the discovery of an unmarked grave on private land during construction and enact criminal penalties if such a discovery is disregarded without alerting authorities.

"I recognize the need for a process to address the handling of unearthed remains in a way that is respectful of linear descendants or culturally affiliated groups," the governor wrote in her veto message. "However, any process that ... also involves the private property of New Yorkers must protect both interests. This bill, as drafted, does not do so."

The Empire State is one of three nationwide — the other two being New Jersey and Wyoming — that do not have a law in place to bridge the gap created in federal law, which does not address such discoveries on private property. The Town of Southampton passed a law in 2020 that creates a review process to avoid disrupting burial sites, but the issue remains unresolved for the rest of the East End, Long Island and most of the state.

"After we rejected unjustified and unpalatable amendments to the Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act, Gov. Hochul made the indefensible decision to veto the legislation ... despite the fact that the legislature passed the bill with near unanimous support," the Shinnecock Graves Protection Warrior Society stated. "This is yet another slap in the face in line with centuries of brutal settler colonialism and violent land theft. But we will persevere in our fight to preserve our lands from desecrating developers. We will continue to do what is necessary to protect our sacred burial sites and consecrated remains, which is something we've been doing since long before New York was even a state."

Hochul said she is working with lawmakers to help draft a version of the bill that addresses her concerns.



COURTESY LANCE GUNIBS

SUFFOLK COUNTY HOMICIDE SQUAD DETECTIVES INVESTIGATED HUMAN REMAINS THAT WERE UNEARTHED BY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN SHINNECOCK HILLS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

Plum Island Closer to Permanent Preservation

BY TAYLOR K. VECSEY

Plum Island could be a step closer to permanent conservation. Reporting language in the recently approved federal omnibus funding package expresses "support for the permanent conservation of Plum Island for the protection in perpetuity of its natural and cultural resources" and calls for a joint briefing to Congressional committees.

"We think this is a vital step to reach our goal of ensuring the preservation of Plum Island. We will continue and not stop until we are successful. This moves us closer to that goal," said Scott Russell, Southold Town Supervisor, in a statement from the Preserve Plum Island Coalition (PPIC).

In addition to historic buildings, like the Plum Island Lighthouse, and endangered wildlife, the island contains artifacts highly valued by the Montaukett Indian Nation as part of its cultural heritage. "This is a very important move towards the preservation and conservation of Plum Island, as well as the protection of the Montaukett people's cultural heritage," said Sandi Brewster-Walker, Montaukett Indian Nation executive director and government affairs officer.

The United States government owns Plum Island, home to the Plum Island Animal Disease Center for nearly 70 years. It is expected to close this year.

Preservationists are proposing that Plum Island be designated as a national monument after advocates successfully nixed a federal plan to auction off the land. The Department of Homeland Security is in the process of expropriating the island and the Preserve Plum Island Coalition has been working for more than a decade to preserve it in perpetuity.

As part of this federal omnibus legislation, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the General Services Administration have been asked to "provide a briefing to the Committees regarding the closure and disposal process for the island's permanent conservation, the



GETTY IMAGES

PLUM ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

possibility of interim ecological management, and options for permanent ownership of Plum Island, including management of and partnerships with State, Federal and Tribal entities, potential costs for managing the island, the status and schedule of cleanup and monitoring, and the procedures for a subsequent owner to invoke DHS's responsibility to ensure that DHS's certification that its remedial actions on Plum Island protect human health and the environment remains valid."

"The PPIC is deeply appreciative of the continuing commitment and support of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senators Kirsten Gillibrand, Chris Murphy, and Richard Blumenthal, as well as Representative Joe Courtney, for the permanent protection of Plum Island, as most recently evidenced by the inclusion of a provision in the federal omnibus spending bill expressing unequivocal support for safeguarding Plum Island in perpetuity," said John Turner, PPIC spokesperson.

Plum Island is home to federally threatened and New York State-endangered piping plovers, as well as 228 other bird species, and is the largest seal haul-out site in the state. Over 111 species of conservation concern have been documented on the island, according to PPIC.

The state designated Plum Gut, turbulent waters that run between the tip of the North Fork at Orient Point and Plum Island, as a "significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat."

Nationally significant artifacts and historic buildings, including the Plum Island Lighthouse, built in 1869, and the Fort Terry army barracks and weapons batteries, built in 1897, both of which are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Southampton Movie Theater Sale Price Revealed

BY TAYLOR K. VECSEY

Back in August, news spread that a buyer was in contract to purchase the Southampton movie theater, which has been closed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This week, Suffolk County deed transfers show that the deal did in fact close with a limited liability corporation buying 43 Hill Street for

\$8 million on November 16, 2022.

Hill Street Cinema LLC has said it plans to reopen as the theater to show movies and to host cultural events.

The 17,859-square-foot building sits on 2.2 acres at the gateway to the village business district.

The Colonial-style movie house was built by Michael Glynne in 1932 as the 1,062-seat Glynne's Southampton Theatre. Fifty years later, United Artists Theatre demolished the auditorium and replaced it with a four-screen multiplex. A fifth screen, in what was once a basement dressing room, was in place until 1995.

Regal Entertainment Group as the Southampton 4 Theatres operated the theater last.

The seller is listed as Southold Properties, Inc., with mailing being sent to Henry M. Karlin of Southold. The owner has been identified publicly as Ken Karlin.

DAN'S COLUMN

Zimmerman's Rematch Resume



I SHALL BE BRIEF

CARTOON BY DAN RATTINER

BY DAN RATTINER

There's been much talk about Republican Congressman-elect George Santos who won in the November 2022 election to represent New York's 3rd Congressional District here on Long Island. Santos won by focusing on his remarkable resume rather than what he might do about the important issues facing the citizenry of the island. His district covers the Gold Coast of Manhasset, Glen Cove along with Huntington and a small piece of northern Queens. He won by 8 percentage points.

There's been far less coverage of the Democratic candidate he beat, Great Neck and Southampton's Bob Zimmerman, who, as a CNN and Fox commentator, is well known in the Hamptons for his work ethic, fundraising efforts and friendly personality. He's a supporter of charities, an accomplished speaker and an effective proponent of those his marketing firm represents. Many say he'd have been a great congressman.



Why Zimmerman lost is a topic of discussion. He did focus on the issues. Abortion, jobs, voting rights, gun violence and transportation. But he never focused on his resume. Santos did and it's impressive.

Born into poverty in Queens, Santos said he went to Baruch College and New York University (NYU), and after graduation worked for Goldman Sachs and Citibank in their finance departments, eventually becoming partner one at a time in other financial institutions. With his newfound wealth he became the owner of 13 buildings in New York City and contributed to charitable causes which honored his Jewish and Brazilian heritage (father and mother respectively.). A

supporter of former President Donald Trump, he lost four employees at the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando. He also founded a charity that held fundraisers to rescue puppies and dogs, eventually saving 2,500 of them, he said.

Since, as it turned out, none of what he claimed was true, there are many people demanding Santos denounce his victory and participate in a rematch

with Zimmerman during January.

If that happens, Zimmerman will surely focus more on his own heritage, which, as it turns out, is also impressive.

Zimmerman was also born into poverty. The only son of an undocumented Mexican mother who lived in Friendlytown, the shabby squatter village in Oyster Bay (recently bulldozed down), with her also undocumented Ukrainian father. He became a child prodigy on the piano. When he was observed in a store at the age of 3 playing his nursery rhymes without instruction, a piano was found for him at a nearby garbage dump. He was tickling the ivories with Mozart and Beethoven by the age of 7. Getting accepted to Great Neck South High School — the best school in the state — because his mother cleaned houses for a wealthy woman in Great Neck who, seeing the situation, helped out. He became the state champion in weightlifting as a junior, and in his senior year became inspired listening to a lecture at the school given by boxing's heavyweight champion George Foreman. As a result, Zimmerman, on his own, designed the wildly popular George Foreman's Lean Mean Fat-Reducing Grilling Machine, which made a fortune for Foreman — and won early recognition as an inventor for the young lad.

After college at Yale, where he was Valedictorian (and fencing champion), he did his doctoral work in science at MIT and finance at Wharton, after which he founded Uber, PayPal, JetBlue, AirBnB and U-Haul. Joining the Air Force, he went off to war in Afghanistan, saw action as a colonel, and then, coming home, joined Lockheed to design the stealth bomber. Still hungry for knowledge though, he went to Harvard Law School and after passing the bar, became the attorney who organized the Me Too movement, then led the team at the Livermore Lab in California developing the new form of electricity called Fusion. (The breakthrough came in mid-December.)

In spite of all this, Zimmerman remains humble. In his new book *Humility* he discusses his two biggest, but until this date, never-revealed failures. Everyone knows that Neil Armstrong was the first to land on the moon. What has been kept secret until now however, is that 12-year-old scientific genius Zimmerman was also secretly on that trip. His job was to parachute down and set up landing lights on the airstrip where Armstrong was to land. Zimmerman had designed these lights, and they had worked during a test, but on that day, when Zimmerman pulled the switch, they failed to turn on, and so were never mentioned in the triumphant report written later about that fateful day.

Zimmerman also underestimated the line of expensive shopping centers and stores that today mark an exclusive part of Northern Boulevard in Manhasset. When he first proposed it at age 17, he called it the "Miracle Half-Mile." However, when others changed the name to the "Miracle Mile," he asked that his name be taken off the project, which it was.

The time that Zimmerman almost became pope is also discussed in this book: The obligatory white puff of smoke that gets emitted by the cardinals to announce that a new pope has been chosen turned out to be only light gray when Zimmerman's name came up, and so his nomination failed at the time.

Zimmerman's charitable works? Simply too many to mention. Read the book. Then vote when the time comes and throw that scoundrel Santos out.



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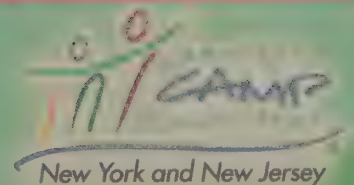
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NEWS & VIEWS

Life During Wartime with Jeff Beri and No Dogs Left Behind

BY MARC HOROWITZ

Less than 24 hours after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky steps off a U.S. Air Force jet to deliver his historic address to Congress, another plane carrying another man on a mission from Ukraine touches down on American soil.

Like Zelensky, the man can't fly directly out of Ukrainian airspace. The skies are too treacherous and most of the country's airports have been reduced to rubble by Russian missiles. He makes his way by car from the battle-ravaged capital city of Kyiv to Budapest, Hungary. His journey continues onto Paris and then to JFK International Airport.

Jeff Beri, founder and principal of No Dogs Left Behind, an international nonprofit that fights for global animal welfare laws and provides emergency response on the front lines of some of the harshest regions of the world, lands in his hometown at 11 p.m. local time, two nights before Christmas Eve.

Beri, who grew up on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and Cedarhurst, Long Island, isn't flying alone. He's traveling with "Uki," a gray and white terrier with attentive ears and one of those dog faces that's as much human as it is canine.

Uki has been through hell. Before being rescued by local animal activists, he'd been chained to a fence in the Ukrainian city of Sumy for several



JEFF BERI OF NO DOGS LEFT BEHIND

days, helpless to do anything but cower as an intense firefight, including tanks and heavy artillery, raged around him.

Uki is doing much better now. After parting ways with Beri and spending the night at the airport for medical clearance, he'll be on his way to his new home in Bonita Springs, Florida, his adoption already arranged through No Dogs Left Behind's ever-expanding network.

When Beri walks off the plane at JFK, he's hard to miss, even without Uki in tow. He's a tall, formidable looking middle-aged dude with a propensity for hugging people he's never met before. He's sporting a black baseball hat, a black sweatshirt and black pants, all of which are festooned with the bright red and white No Dogs Left Behind logo.

"When I'm out there, I wear my col-

ors," he says.

Even after many hours of international travel, Beri is still juiced with leftover adrenaline from 10 days spent helping animals in and around the front lines of a war zone.

Just a few days earlier, he was traveling through the port city of Kherson in a three-truck convoy with local volunteers to deliver massive sacks of dog and cat food to hard-hit towns in the region. His escorts included two "Angel Heart" soldiers — Ukrainian fighters who had defended Kyiv in the earliest stages of the invasion. The Angel Hearts' sole mission on that day was to keep Beri alive.

For eight months, Kherson had been occupied by the Russian Army, and had only been recaptured by Ukrainian forces in mid-November. The city was just beginning to re-emerge,

settling back into some of its pre-war rhythms. But it was devastated — and it was still a target.

"Out of nowhere, there was this boom. A missile landed 10 or 15 meters from us," Beri recounts, getting more animated as his adrenaline kicks back into overdrive. "The front wheels of the truck came off the ground and the sulphur cloud spray from the blast shot through. Our driver turned the truck around and it was literally 100 miles an hour back in the other direction... that was way too close, man."

Leaving JFK at a little past midnight, Beri is driving north on a rain-slicked section of the Van Wyck Expressway. The Van Wyck can be a tricky road in bad weather, but it's definitely not in the same danger universe as a supply route in Kherson, Ukraine. He relaxes, shifts into manager mode and gets

NEWS & VIEWS



A DOG RESCUED BY NO DOGS LEFT BEHIND

“Out of nowhere, there was this boom. A missile landed 10 or 15 meters from us”

granular about his organization's raison d'être.

Beri has now logged two trips to wartime Ukraine. His first trip, arranged with crucial political and logistical support from an anonymous patron he met at a summer fundraiser in Bridgehampton, was four months earlier, where he focused his efforts in the city of Hostomel, northwest of Kyiv.

“Rescuing and evacuating dogs like Uki — that's sexy, that's the money shot,” he explains. “Rescues are what bring in a lot of our funding. But they're not the thing that Ukraine needs the most.”

Beri's assessment of the situation on the ground in Hostomel led to a multi-pronged, pilot program. The first step involved securing access and lining up local security, transportation and animal volunteers. Logistics in place, Beri's team began by supplying thousands of pounds of pet food across the region. His team then implemented an ongoing system to spay or neuter stray dogs and cats as well as family pets. The animals were also vaccinated against rabies and other major diseases. Strays were fitted with ear tags, micro-chipped and logged in an international database to help measure the success of the program.

“I'm feeding them, I'm sterilizing them, I'm vaccinating them, I'm tracking them,” Beri explains. “In four months, we've stabilized the stray population with 75 percent effectiveness in Hostumel. It's monumental. The government is thrilled. The last thing they need is stray animals procreating out of control and hitting the street with infectious diseases.”

Building on his organization's success in Hostumel, Beri is currently securing funding and support, and making plans to expand the program to other regions across Ukraine.

Formed as a non-profit in 2017, No Dogs Left Behind is funded solely by donations. In addition to its recent work in Ukraine, the organization lobbies for animal welfare laws in places like Afghanistan and China.

“Right now, there are no animal welfare laws in China,” Beri laments “But we're gonna change that.”

Beri has also spent significant time on the ground in both countries, building local animal activist teams to protest against and combat the vicious dog-meat trade that's still common in parts of Asia.

“I've had an AK-47 pointed at me in Afghanistan,” he says. “I've seen things in Ukraine that brought me to my knees — things that would bring any human being to their knees... but I'm not stopping.”

COURTESY NO DOGS LEFT BEHIND

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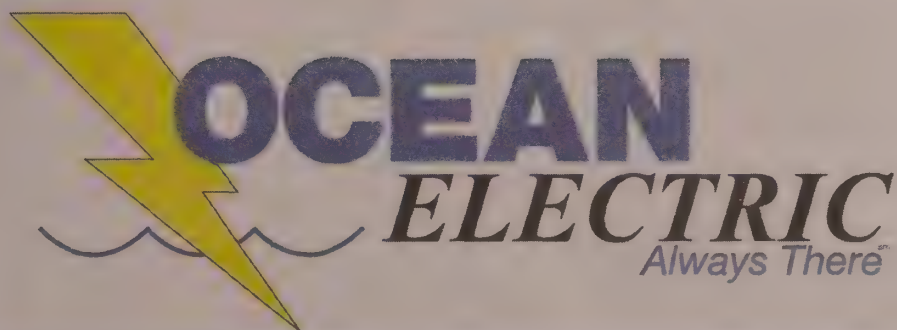
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REAL ESTATE

The 10 Most Expensive Hamptons Home Sales of 2022

BY TAYLOR K. VECSEY

With the arrival of 2023, let's take a look back at the year that was in real estate. It was by no means a dud when it comes to the uber luxury real estate market, but it was not quite as extraordinary as 2021, which saw the largest sale in Hamptons history at \$118.5 million. By comparison, the priciest sale in 2022 was \$84.5 million. However, 2022 did set some records, including the highest price ever paid for a non-waterfront property in the Hamptons.

Check out which transactions made the top 10 list of confirmed sales as of December 31. *Behind the Hedges* will update its list online if the Suffolk County deed transfers later reveal any other sales closed that fit the top 10 biggest sales of the year.

1) 153 Lily Pond Lane, East Hampton | \$84.5 million

The 2022 year started with a big deal. Ron Perelman, the embattled chairman and chief executive of MacAndrews & Forbes, which most notably oversees Revlon, sold this village estate on January 6, 2022. Sotheby's International Realty's Harald Grant listed the 8.5-acre property, one of Perelman's two East Hampton estates, for \$115 million over the summer of 2021. The buyer was listed only as 153 LPL LLC.

2) 160 Ox Pasture Road, Southampton Village | \$70 million

The Linden Estate, on the market for the better part of a decade, sold in November for \$70 million — the highest price ever paid for a non-waterfront property in the Hamptons. Grant and Tim Davis of the Corcoran Group co-listed the 10-acre property and Davis also represented the buyers, who paid slightly over the last asking price of \$69.95 million. Juergen Friedrich, a former executive of Esprit, and his wife, Anke Beck-Friedrich, who owned it in a holding company's name, were the sellers of the traditional-style manor house with its recognizable red-tile gambrel roof that spans 18,000 square feet. The Friedrichs purchased the Linden Estate for about \$8.5 million in 2002. There is no word yet on who the new owners are.

3) 1080 and 1100 Meadow Lane, Southampton | \$66.25 million

The two contiguous oceanfront properties on Billionaires Row sold for a combined \$66.25 million, which Hedgerow Exclusive Properties, which brokered the deal with Grant, called the most expensive land trade in Southampton. The 2.4-acre vacant property at 1100 Meadow Lane officially went for \$32.5 million on June 30, while the 4.5-acre property with several structures on it at 1080 Meadow Lane traded on July 22 for \$33.75 million. They were bought by different entities, Southampton Oceanfront LP and Dunes Development Partners LP respectively. The combined asking price had been \$78 million. Though they were once offered as a 14-acre compound for \$150 with a neighboring property at 1116 Meadow Lane, the latter



THE PRICIEST SALES IN THE HAMPTONS TOPPED OUT AT \$84.5 MILLION IN 2022.

sold separately for \$48 million. They all once belonged to billionaire media executive Robert F.X. Sillerman.

4) 7 Fairfield Pond Lane, Sagaponack | \$50 million

A contemporary-style oceanfront home on a three-acre property between the Atlantic Ocean and Fairfield Pond changed hands on January 20 in an off-market deal. Sembro LLC, which has owned the property since 2006, sold it to Samudra Farms LLC.

Bespoke Real Estate represented both the buyer and seller. The approximately 10,000-square-foot linear-form house was designed by Bates + Masi Architects.

5) 1116 Meadow Lane, Southampton | \$48 million

Once part of the estate mentioned earlier that belonged to Sillerman, who held an interest in Elvis Presley's Graceland and was the founder of the electronic dance music company SFX Entertainment,

this property sold first on June 17. Grant also brokered this deal, which was for a 3.65-acre property with a 12,000-square-foot house on it, built in 2010, and 200 feet of oceanfront.

6) 35 Potato Road and 543 Daniel's Lane, Sagaponack | \$46.5 million

These two parcels sold in May but went into contract in March before officially coming to market for \$48 million. Two oceanfront acres with a 5,200-square-foot home with 250 feet of direct ocean frontage at 35 Potato Road sold for \$34.5 million. The vacant two-acre property to the north at 543 Daniel's Lane, one of the last undeveloped parcels that close to the beach, sold for \$12 million. Christopher Covert and Chris Coleman of Compass repped the seller and Hedgerow brought the buyer. The properties had been owned by former Johnson & Johnson chairman and CEO, the late James (Jim) E. Burke, and his wife, the late philanthropist Diane (Didi) W. Burke, along with Burke's sister, the philanthropist Phyllis Davis. The buyers were listed only as 35 Spud LLC and 543 Spud LLC.

7) 194 & 218 Meadowlark Lane, Bridgehampton | \$45 million

The nearly five-acre pond-front compound sold

in an off-market transaction, marking the most expensive single trade on Sagaponack Pond in Hamptons' history, according to Hedgerow Exclusive Properties, which brokered the deal with Christopher Covert of Compass. The six-bedroom house is situated on 4.1 acres, records show. A neighboring lot of just under one acre in size was also part of the deal.

8) 11 Beach Plum Court, Amagansett | \$42 million

Hedge fund manager Adam Levinson sold his newly built modern Napeague home for \$42 million, in an off-market deal on April 28. It is believed to be the biggest deal in Amagansett's history. While the seller was listed as a limited liability company, online records connect it to Adam Levinson, the managing partner and chief investment officer for Singapore-based Graticule Asset Management Asia, and his wife, Brittany Levinson. The new owner of the Hamptons home was veiled under an LLC called BPC 11. It was unclear who brokered the deal.

8) 10 Tyson Lane, Amagansett | \$37.125 million

Oceanfront properties belonging to Helmut Lang, the Austrian designer and artist, were sold for a combined \$67.5 million, making it one of the top three biggest deals of 2022. We placed it at number eight on our list because the properties were sold to different people. The 1.6-acre parcel with three outbuildings on it at 10 Tyson Lane sold for \$37,125,000 on March 25, while 8 Tyson Lane, a 1.1-acre property, went for \$30,375,000 on March 24. *The Wall Street Journal* reported in May that two neighbors, Howard Marks, the billionaire co-founder of Oaktree Capital Management, and John B. Hess, the CEO of Hess Corp., were the buyers respectively.

9) 199 Coopers Neck Lane, Southampton Village | \$32.2 million

The Atterbury Estate, which underwent a massive renovation, sold on May 26 for a total of \$32.2 million. The residence, set on three acres, was owned by David Walentas, the real estate investor who developed Dumbo in Brooklyn. He and his late wife, Jane Walentas, bought the home in 2019 for \$11.9 million to restore it to its former glory. It was last asking \$37 million. Christopher Burnside of Brown Harris Stevens and Bespoke had the co-exclusive. Grant of Sotheby's repped the buyers, who are, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, Stewart Butterfield, co-founder and CEO of the messaging company Slack, and Jen Rubio, co-founder and CEO of Away, a luggage manufacturer and retailer.

10) 325 Bluff Road, Amagansett | \$32 million

This oceanfront estate set on 2.59 acres along the ocean between Indian Wells and Atlantic Beaches sold in an off-market transaction on March 4. Hedgerow Exclusive Properties brokered the deal. The buyer was also veiled, using the name Bluff Road Associates LLC.

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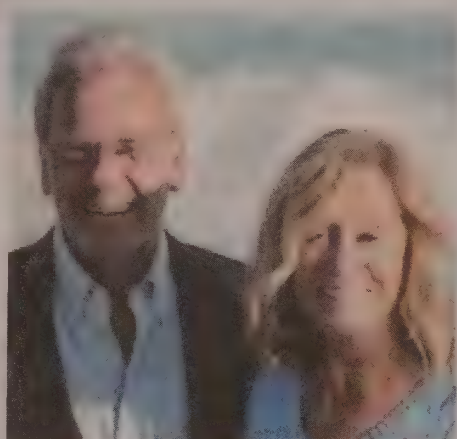
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This moment in time has created an unusual market with unique challenges for both buyers and sellers. What we know for sure is that every home is its own unique market, and every buyer, a cohort of one.

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HAMLET	SELLER	PURCHASER	ADDRESS	PROPERTY	CLOSING DATE	PRICE
Hamlet	Seller	Purchaser	Address	Property	Closing Date	Price
Amagansett	Michele Tortorelli	Christine Jenkins	51 Schellinger Road	Residence	10/07/22	1,950,000
Aquebogue	Richard & Linda Saladon	Ryan Smith	54 Shade Tree Lane	Residence	10/18/22	610,000
Aquebogue	Janet Wright Trust	189 Shade Tree Lane LLC	189 Shade Tree Lane	Vacant	09/28/22	225,000
East Hampton	Alexander & Sarah Foster	Daniel & Sophie Lupatkin	12 Wheelock Walk	Residence	10/28/22	1,550,000
East Hampton	Robert L Jones	1 Cedar House LLC	41 Cedar Street	Residence	10/26/22	1,200,000
East Quogue	Sergio Yero	Susan Maimon	9 Bluejay Way	Residence	09/23/22	2,225,000
Flanders	Mario Cardona	Maria Alves	523 Brookhaven Avenue	Residence	10/21/22	496,500
Hampton Bays	Thomas Courtenay	Mario & Elizabeth Verri	6 Higbee Road	Residence	08/30/22	1,135,000
Hampton Bays	US Bank	Paola & Roger Quiceno	69A Argonne Road East	Residence	08/24/22	760,000
Hampton Bays	Estate of Ann Baker	Joseph & Valerie Bernardo	25 Boathouse Road	Vacant	10/20/22	476,000
Montauk	Joseph & Elizabeth Damianoe	Daniel Mastacciola	129 Madison Drive	Residence	08/31/22	2,120,000
Quogue	Island Wholesale Realty Corp	Charley Madison Group LLC	3 Midhampton Avenue	Commercial	08/24/22	1,800,000
Riverhead	1049 Osborne LLC	Dewall Manor LLC	1049 Osborn Avenue	Commercial	09/30/22	4,000,000
Riverhead	LaTonya Jefferson	193 Adnil LLC	149 Ludlam Avenue	Vacant	09/29/22	310,000

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HAMLET	SELLER	PURCHASER	ADDRESS	PROPERTY	CLOSING DATE	PRICE
Riverhead	Marilyn & Robert Fertig Trust	Rosa Martinez	1017 West Street	Residence	10/19/22	275,000
Sag Harbor	Roxane Campello	Sag Shack LLC	1 Bluff Point Lane	Residence	09/26/22	5,900,000
Sag Harbor	Linda Batiancela	26 Poplar LLC	26 Poplar Street	Residence	10/26/22	2,160,000
Sagaponack	Jay Eisenhofer	501 Parsonage LLC	501 Parsonage Lane	Residence	09/27/22	15,750,000
Sagaponack	Land of Lochs LLC	Juan Muevecela	288 Toppings Path	Residence	10/27/22	1,450,000
Southampton	Southold Properties Inc	Hill Street Cinema LLC	43 Hill Street	Commercial	11/16/22	8,000,000
Southampton	Charles Damga	Birchwood Ventures LLC	15 Oceanview Drive	Residence	07/13/22	1,350,000
Southampton	Fairfield Southampton LLC	Matthew Broxmer	45 Village Green Drive	Condo	09/01/22	900,000
Southold	Robert & Stephanie Swing	Bilal & Arzu Altintoprak	1375 Ackerly Pond Lane	Residence	07/13/22	1,725,000
Wading River	Joseph Magliulo	Dennis & Cristina D'Onofrio	124 Hidden Pheasant Path	Residence	10/12/22	1,540,000
Wading River	Ionko Milev	Sara Mason	161 Maple Road	Residence	09/14/22	539,990
Wading River	Westwood Building Corp	Maurice Munera	53 Deane Street	Residence	10/14/22	470,000
Westhampton	Afton & Michael Carnevale	Christopher Jon LLC	13 Cedarfield Lane	Vacant	10/27/22	630,000
Westhampton Beach	Severn Associates LLC	Hulchun & Charles Berry	125 Seafield Point	Residence	03/22/22	2,900,000

Deeds

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Why It's Troubling That Artificial Intelligence Created This Cover (with Human Prompts)

BY OLIVER PETERSON

The era of AI art — digital paintings, drawings and photographs created by artificial intelligence — is upon us. Who could have imagined a time when an attractive, vibrant piece of “original” art could be created simply by typing a few words into a computer? And at what cost?

This week's *Dan's Papers* cover art, featuring a version of the Montauk Lighthouse, feels in large part like many other covers we've published over the last 35 years, starting with Elaine de Kooning's painting on our September 11, 1987 issue. Hundreds of artists have since enjoyed the pride and recognition that comes with displaying their work on our cover, but in a world where computers can now produce art based on a few keystrokes inputted by a human, what does that mean for the artists who once spent hours, days and weeks toiling in their studios to create similar images?

While *Dan's* has never had to pay the artists who make our covers, it's clear to see how this growing trend could provide a company in need of artwork and illustrations with an easy way to circumvent the hiring of trained professionals in order to save money and time, and simply play around with a few word combinations to get something that's “good enough.”

Artists all over the world are not happy about any of this. Some could argue these artists are just whining about the effects of nascent technology on their business, but the issue is more complicated than that. The moral and ethical implications are quite real, and their rage feels justified.

Learning how AI art is made is a key part of understanding the controversy currently swirling around its use.

Without getting into a lot of technical jargon, the user experience works like this, at least for me creating this Montauk Lighthouse cover image: I logged on to NightCafe Studio (nightcafe.studio), hit the “Create” button and selected one of five creation methods, each using a different algorithm.

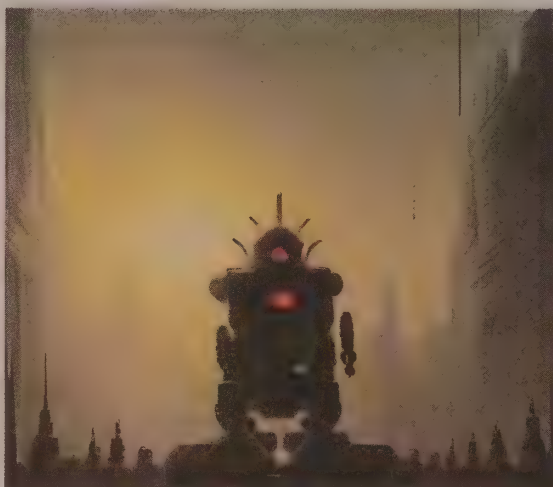
I selected the latest generator, called the “Stable” text-to-image AI art algorithm, designed to create coherent pictures that follow the laws of physics. From there, I typed “Montauk Lighthouse,” chose the “Anime” style — one of 28 available style options — and then hit “Create.” Less than a minute later, I had a slightly different version of the image that now graces the cover of this newspaper, at the cost of half a credit (from the initial 5 credits NightCafe gives users for signing up).

After some consultation, we decided the waves should be larger since this is supposed to be Montauk in winter, so I used “Evolve This Creation” and added “large waves” to the original prompt, leaving me with the final image you see on our cover.

What happens on the computer side is of far



MONTAUK LIGHTHOUSE AI ART, CREATED BY A COMPUTER WITH PROMPTS BY OLIVER PETERSON



“SUBJUGATED BY ROBOTS” AI ARTWORK USING THE PROMPT “ROBOT OVERLORDS PUNISH SUBJUGATED HUMANS IN A WORLD WITH NO OTHER LIFE” ON NIGHTCAFE CREATOR



“NOBLE MAN CHILD” AI ARTWORK USING THE PROMPT “SKINNY SNOBBY MAN PLAYS WITH ACTION FIGURES ON THE FLOOR OF HIS MARBLE PALACE AS SERVANTS SCURRY AROUND TENDING TO HIS NEEDS AND OFFERING FRUIT, WINE AND PILLOWS” ON NIGHTCAFE CREATOR

greater import. When the AI gets a prompt, it digs into a massive data set, pulling from billions of images online and assembling those images based on the inputs to create an acceptable final result. The problem with this comes down to the images the AI uses. Among these images are billions of people's personal photographs, copyrighted artwork and every other piece of visual data spread across the internet — and they're used without permission.

Some of the most popular AI programs, like the ones that create those artistic avatars popping up all over social media, even offer filters based on specific artists' work. It's not a surprise that artists, who are showing direct comparisons of their work against strikingly similar AI creations, feel concerned and violated.

Popular YouTuber Sam Yang, of Sam Does Art, explains all this quite succinctly in a video called *Why Artists Are Fed Up with AI Art*. “If you've shared your work online, or even images of yourself, your house, your environment, you might have been included in these data sets,” Yang points out, adding, “The moment we share them online, we've opted in to the system. If your work so much as exists online, it will be found, and it will be used in a piece of AI art.”

Sooner or later, I imagine the millions of AI-generated pieces will also end up incorporated into these data sets at some point, and AI will begin basing its art on other AI art, further laundering content away from its original source, and leaving us with a trove of watered-down work that will all begin to look the same.

All this said, creating AI art is a lot of fun. I've quite enjoyed playing with various long, convoluted text prompts and evolving images based on added text, but I'm careful not to call this my own art, nor would I attempt to sell it as such or submit it to a contest, like Jason Allen did with his AI-generated piece, “*Théâtre D'opéra Spatial*,” which earned first place in the Colorado State Fair's Digital Art category last fall and helped bring criticism of, and conversation about, AI art to the fore.

There is, of course, a place for using AI, but it may take some time to find the best way forward, where it's helping the art world, not harming the livelihood of individual artists. Within its own bubble, a site like NightCafe Studio offers fun, themed contests and gives users credits for submitting work, voting for others in daily challenges and achieving milestones, such as getting your first piece to land in the top 20% with voters. But it would be a bit delusional for so-called “AI artists” to take full credit for the things they create using these tools.

Oliver Peterson's actual art creations, made with his own two hands, and an occasional computer, can be found at @oliverpetersonart or @oliversees on Instagram.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

10 Best Movies of 2022



TOM CRUISE PLAYS CAPT. PETE "MAVERICK" MITCHELL IN "TOP GUN: MAVERICK."

from beginning to end.

The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent has Nicolas Cage in on his own joke in a way almost no other actor has or will ever do.

Hustle is proof positive Adam Sandler isn't just funny. *Uncut Gems* and *Punch Drunk Love* were not anomalies.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

RRR (Trust me, crazy cool), **Tár** and **Elvis**

Our favorite man about the Hamptons, Bill McCurdy will go just about anywhere we send him. He is an entertainment reporter and movie critic for PBS. He also co-hosts a WLIW and LTV show "AirHamptons with Bridget and Bill."



RALPH FIENNES IN "THE MENU"

BY BILL MCCUDDY

What a wild year. We watched most of the 10 Best Movies of 2022 at home. *Maverick* brought us back into the theaters. And that's a reason alone to put it in any Top 10, but it was *also* a great movie. Adam Sandler surprised me, too. So did Nic Cage.

Here are my 10 best movies of 2022, and it doesn't matter where you saw them. Great stories are great stories. And this year there were a lot to choose from.

I'm not counting them down this year. They are all good. (OK, if I had to pick, *Till* is #1. But these are in no particular order.)

By the way, if you can see only one "Pinocchio" this year, don't.

10 BEST MOVIES OF 2022

Top Gun: Maverick had us all flying. And they actually did it. Without hurling. At least on camera.

Emily The Criminal — Aubrey Plaza is a great actress. You saw that in *White Lotus*, but *this* was her best performance of the year.

The Menu is a vastly superior knock on the 1% that *Triangle of Sadness* tried to do. Ralph Fiennes cooks up a great recipe for dark comedy.

Till — By far the best film of the year, because it didn't rely on white guilt clichés to make the point. You can actually see the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement born on the shoulders of Danielle Deadwyler.

The Northman had Nicole Kidman as Worst Mom of the Year. Great action. Best movie you never heard of.

The Banshees of Inisherin — *Best Friends for Life* gets the ultimate challenge.

The Good Nurse — A master class in acting with Jessica Chastain and Eddie Redmayne.

Cha Cha Real Smooth convinced me Dakota Johnson can act. This will completely surprise you



NICOLAS CAGE AS NIC CAGE IN "THE UNBEARABLE WEIGHT OF MASSIVE TALENT"



BRENDAN GLEESON AND COLIN FARRELL IN "THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN"



JALYN HALL AS EMMETT TILL AND DANIELLE DEADWYLER AS MAMIE TILL MOBLEY IN "TILL," DIRECTED BY CHINONYE CHUKWU

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Character counts!

What happened to "character counts?"

These joyous holidays were jarred by news of the continuing struggle for survival of the **Ukrainians** (my mom was born in **Kyiv**) and how critical strategically that country is to the stability in Europe. The people of **Ukraine** have shown great character and courage in fighting for their democracy.

On a more local level, I was shocked to learn of the revelations about Congressman-elect **George Santos**, who admitted to lying about his past!

In the 1960s, an investigation launched into **Congressman Adam Clayton Powell** found he was abusing his privileges as a congressman and was denied from retaining his seat. But the Supreme Court found he could still be seated,

since he met the following criteria:

1. He lives in the state in which he's elected.
2. He is at least 25 years old.
3. He has been a U.S. citizen for at least seven years.

Santos can be sworn into office, but his colleagues in Congress can deny him from being given committees until investigations into his lies can be completed.

Sadly, unless Santos is found guilty of committing a crime, lying to the people who voted for him based on his lies doesn't seem to matter. Ironically, he **pretended** to have given so much money to the Republican party and bamboozled **Dr. Harvey Manes**, a bright, sophisticated man, into not running for the seat.

Santos **pretended** to be Jewish. He **pretended** he graduated college. He **pretended** to work for the most prestigious finance firms in our country. He **pretended** he's wealthy enough to give his campaign over \$700,000, but no one has been able to follow the money trail!

He pretended to have a non-profit to help animals. I started a nonprofit for special needs children like my daughter Lara and the first thing I did was to get a professional to create a 501(c)(3), which means anyone donating is eligible for a tax deduction and we must file with the federal government. Santos apparently did not do that.

He's my congressman now and I'm saddened that the leadership of his party is willing to stand with a man who is a proven liar who deceived us and is about to get away with it.

He's a modern day Pinocchio — Pinocchio's nose was never as big as Santos' — but he's laughing all the way from the Hermes store to Congress!

Thankfully, it was announced that a U.S. federal prosecutor who has jurisdiction over federal elections has opened an investigation.

Let's stay tuned to prosecutors who are looking into Santos' lies.

To protect our democracy we need leaders with character and integrity. Character still counts and we deserve better.



George Santos is like Pinocchio with all of his lies!

Happy New Year!

My friends from **Westhampton Beach** went south to celebrate the new year, while I welcomed in the new year, too. Here's to a great 2023!



Maria and Tom Moore and Mike and Nancy Burner with me.



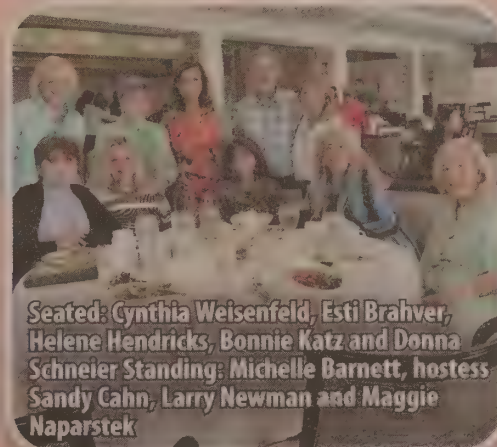
Seated: Ellen Koppelman, Alisa Sorkin, Gloria Kaylie
Standing: Eva Galpern, Sandy Cahn, Emily Melnick, Jill Sedley, Connie Rubin and Michelle Barnett



With Meryl Manes, Ernie and Catherine Canades and Dr. Harvey Manes



Clockwise from l.: Simon Naparstek, Steve Barnett, Stewart Cahn, Carl Wisotsky, Sandy, Ron Sedley, Cole, Larry Neuman, Jeff Weisenfeld, Max Barnett and Bruce Katz



Seated: Cynthia Weisenfeld, Esti Brahver, Helene Hendricks, Bonnie Katz and Donna Schneier
Standing: Michelle Barnett, hostess Sandy Cahn, Larry Newman and Maggie Naparstek

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CERTAIN MOVES DUO AT WÖLFFER ESTATE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 4-7 P.M.

Enjoy cozy Candlelight Fridays in the Tasting Room at Wölffer Estate, which includes live music, new wine releases and specialty cocktails. Certain Moves will be playing classics and originals in a smooth style. Reservations are recommended.

139 Sagg Road,
Sagaponack. 631-537-5106, wolffer.com

THE FIRESIDE SESSIONS WITH NANCY ATLAS AND FRIENDS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 8-9 P.M.

Come and listen to uplifting Americana, Blues and Rock by Nancy Atlas at the Bay Street Theater. Tickets are \$35-\$45 and can be purchased ahead of time.

1 Long Wharf, Sag Harbor.
631-725-0818, baystreet.org

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

FULL WOLF MOON HIKE WITH FRIENDS OF THE LONG POND GREENBELT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 5 P.M.

Join Jean McDermott from Friends of Long Pond Greenbelt for this one-hour hike through Vineyard Fields. Light refreshments and conversation will follow it. Learn about the legend of the night moon and the howling of the wolves. The event is free but pre-registration is required.

377 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor
Turnpike, Bridgehampton.
631-599-2391, sofo.org

HAMPTON'S EVENTS

MONTAUK NATURE WALK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 9 A.M.-NOON

Join the Great South Bay Audubon Society for this invigorating weekend walk.

The journey will begin at the Montauk Lighthouse parking lot, but latecomers can join in the vicinity of the restaurant overlook.

2000 Montauk Highway, Montauk.
greatsouthbayaudubon.org/event/
montauk-nature-walk-3

SAGAPONACK SUNSET ELECTRIC BIKE TOUR

MONDAY-THURSDAY, JANUARY 9-12, 4:30-6:30 P.M.

Book your time slot ahead of time for a tour of scenic Sagaponack at sunset. You'll begin at the village parking lot in Bridgehampton to be fitted for your eBike. After that, you'll enjoy a 14-mile guided tour through Sagg Main Beach and the racing route of the historic vintage Bridgehampton Sports Car Races. You'll end up right where you started.

99 School Street Parking Lot,
Bridgehampton.
631-276-9840, electricbikesagogo.com/sagaponack

ENRICHING PROGRAMS

CHALLAH BAKING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 11 A.M.

Head on out to the Jewish Center of the Hamptons to learn how to make challah with Rebbetzin Stephanie Whitehorn, creator of the Whitehorn Challah. You'll be able to take home your own freshly baked creation. Pre-registration is required.

44 Woods Lane, East Hampton.
631-324-9858, jcoh.org

A WINTER TEA AT THE JOHN JERMAIN LIBRARY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2-3:30 P.M.

Head on over to the Lower Room of the John Jermain Library for a hot cup of tea to warm up a January day. You'll also enjoy scones, jam and clotted cream while learning about tea history and collecting scone recipes. Margaret M. Johnson, the author of 13 cookbooks, will be selling and signing her books at the event.

201 Main Street, Sag Harbor.
631-725-0049, johnjermain.org

OYSTER HAPPY HOUR AT CALISSA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 5-7 P.M.

Treat yourself to \$1 oysters at Calissa's bar every Friday night. Afterward, stay for dinner or boogie to the music of the live DJ.

1020 Montauk Highway, Water Mill.
631-500-9292, calissahamptons.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 11 A.M.-2 P.M.

If you're looking for a purr-fect way to spend a winter Saturday, sneak on over to the Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation, where you'll meet plenty of adoptable friends. There will



NANCY ATLAS AT THE NANCY ATLAS FIRESIDE SESSIONS CONCERT SERIES AT THE BAY STREET THEATER

MICHAEL HELLER

OUT & ABOUT ON THE EAST END



A WOLF MOON

also be a bake sale, coffee and raffles. 102 Old Riverhead Road West, Hampton Bays. 631-728-7387, southamptonanimalshelter.com

MOSTLY BAROQUE RECORDER JAM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 4-5 P.M.

If you play a little recorder, head on over to the Hampton Library, where you'll play "mostly Baroque" pieces in a group setting! Some experience is necessary and pre-registration is required.

2748 Main Street, Bridgehampton. 631-537-0015, myhamptonlibrary.org

PAN SEARED CHICKEN WITH TWO DIFFERENT SAUCES WITH CHEF ROB SCOTT

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

Join Chef Rob Scott in the Lower Room of the Hampton Bays Library for this live demonstration. He will show you how to make Pan Seared Chicken with Spinach and Sundried Tomato Sauce and Chicken Cacciatore Sauce. Pre-registration is required. 50 Ponquogue Avenue, Hampton Bays. 631-728-6241, hamptonbays.librarycalendar.com

ALMOND ARTISTS & WRITERS DINNER SERIES: ANDRINA WEKONTASH SMITH

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 7 P.M.

Don't miss Andrina Wekontash Smith, a writer, singer and performer with a theater degree from Emerson College. Her work explores themes like identity and race. The \$59 cost

of your ticket will also include a 3-course meal and a glass of wine or draft beer. Reservations need to be made by calling the restaurant directly.

1 Ocean Road, Bridgehampton. 631-537-5665, almondrestaurant.com

CHAIR YOGA WITH KATE ALESSIO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 11 A.M.

Join instructor Kate Alessio for this unique online opportunity to perform yoga poses using chairs for support. Yoga is known to help with things like weight loss, flexibility and mood enhancement. Register ahead of time and a Zoom ID and password will be emailed to you 15 minutes before the start of the event.

159 Main Street, East Hampton. 631-324-0222, easthamptonlibrary.org/calendar

GARDEN THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 12:30-1:30 P.M.

Drop in the Morris Meeting Room of the Rogers Memorial Library to create your own blend of herbal tea or cooking herbs from the library's Demonstration Garden. Tea and cookies will be served.

91 Coopers Farm Road, 631-283-0774, rogersmemorial.librarycalendar.com

CLASSICS BOOK GROUP WITH CAROLYN: EMMA BY JANE AUSTEN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 4-5 P.M.

If books are your thing but you find it difficult to get out on a chilly winter day, don't miss your chance to discuss this Jane Austen classic with your friends at the Montauk Library via Zoom. Email cbalducci@montauklibrary.org and the link will be sent to you 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

871 Montauk Highway, Montauk. 631-668-3377, montauklibrary.org

ART EXHIBITIONS**ART WARS! THE MET, MOMA AND WHITNEY: WHAT EACH MIGHT ARGUE IS ART**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2-3 P.M.

Join the Quogue Library for this special virtual presentation on how the first art curators defined art and competed with one another. Pre-registration is required.

90 Quogue Street, Quogue. 631-653-4224, quogue.librarycalendar.com

A SHOW ABOUT NOTHING AT THE ERIC FIRESTONE GALLERY

ON VIEW THROUGH JANUARY 28

Don't miss this show at the Eric Firestone Gallery celebrating its 12-year history with the year-round Hamptons community. On view will be paintings and works on paper by artists like Jorge Fick, Judy Bowman and Mimi Gross.

4 Newton Lane, East Hampton. 631-604-2386, ericfirestonegallery.com

A ROOM FULL OF ART

ON VIEW THROUGH FEBRUARY 12

Visit the Southampton Cultural Center for a maze where you can view art from every angle. The gallery is open every day from noon-4 p.m.

25 Pond Lane, Southampton. 631-287-4377, scc-arts.org

YIN & YANG

ON VIEW THROUGH MARCH 6

Celebrate the beauty of contrast at this exhibit at The White Room Gallery that's premiering on January 6. The gallery is open Friday-Sunday during the winter season.

2415 Montauk Highway, Bridgehampton. 631-237-1418, thewhiteroom.gallery

Seeking paid event photographers, email: photoeditor@ danspapers.com



ANDRINA WEKONTASH SMITH

WHAT TO DO. WHERE TO GO. WHERE TO PLAY.

OUT & ABOUT ON THE NORTH FORK



GRAB YOUR POPCORN AND GET READY FOR AN EXCITING SCREENING.

CURATED BY REBEKAH YAHOVES

LIVE SHOWS

SPACE ODDITY AT THE SUFFOLK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 8 P.M.

Join The Suffolk for this multimedia exploration of the life and career of David Bowie, who was known for being one of the bestselling musical artists of all time. Tickets start at \$45, and doors open at 7 p.m.

118 East Main Street, Riverhead.

631-727-4343, suffolktheater.com

ERIN CHASE AT TWIN FORK BREWERY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Enjoy the haunting vocals and guitar strumming of Erin Chase at the Twin Fork Brewery, where you can also sample fine IPAs and ales.

807 Raynor Avenue, Riverhead.

631-209-4322, twinforkbeer.com

POPCORN AND A MOVIE: WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1-3:30 P.M.

Head on out to the Riverhead Library for a screening of *Where the Crawdads Sing*, a murder mystery story based on the book by Delia Owens. The library will supply the popcorn!

330 Court Street, Riverhead.

631-727-4762, riverheadlibrary.org

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

WINTER SOWING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2-4 P.M.

Learn how to plant veggie and flower seedlings outdoors during the colder months at the Southold Library. No greenhouses or light setups are required. The event is free and you can register ahead of time online.

53705 Main Road, Southold.

631-765-2077, southoldlibrary.org

ENRICHING PROGRAMS

EAST END FOOD MARKET

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 9-11 A.M.

Enjoy this special food market featuring wares from local food, wine, craft and farm vendors. There will also be live music and special activities.

139 Main Road, Riverhead.

631-283-3195, peconiclandtrust.org

COTTAGE WINE DINNER AT BEDELL CELLARS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 6-8:30 P.M.

Head on out to Bedell Cellars for this night of elegant dining featuring five courses from chefs Jonathan Shearman and Max Mohrmann of Fyr & Salt. They will be paired with small-batch wines from Bedell's winemaker Marin Brennan. Appetizers, salads, fresh pasta, a surf-and-turf entree and dessert will all be part of the fun. Wine club members

will enjoy a 15% discount.

36225 Main Road, Cutchogue.

631-734-7537, bedellcellars.com

CHOCOLGY FUDGE PAIRING AT PINDAR VINEYARDS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, NOON-4 P.M.

Head on out to Pindar Vineyards for a fun pairing of three handmade fudge pieces from Chocology in Stony Brook matched with three delicious Pindar wines. Reservations are required.

37645 Main Road, Peconic.

631-734-6200, pindar.net

PILATES & BARRE CLASS AT THE GIVING ROOM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 10:15 A.M.

Sign up ahead of time for this open-level class that combines Pilates mat

exercises, the Barre and props to strengthen your mind and body.

56215 Main Road, Southold.

631-765-6670, givingroom.net

GEEK TALKS AT ÜBERGEEK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 7-9 P.M.

Head on out for great beer and conversation at übergeek Brewing Company, where the SoFo Sharks will bring the enlightening conversation, and Piesans Pizza will provide the food.

400 Hallett

Avenue, Riverhead.

631-381-0848,

ubergeekbrewing.com

ART EXHIBITIONS

INFLUENCES: ART EXHIBITION

THROUGH JANUARY 7

Head on out to the Cutchogue-New Suffolk Library to view this exhibition that explores the extent to which teachers influence their students' work. This show includes the paintings of Diane Alec Smith, who was briefly a student of the late Jacqueline Penney. All of the work is available for purchase.

27550 Main Road, Cutchogue.

631-734-6360, cutchoguelibrary.org

THE LANDSCAPE: NATIONAL JURIED SMALL WORKS EXHIBITION

THROUGH JANUARY 16

Don't miss one of the last weekends to check out this fascinating exhibition at the Alex Ferrone Gallery, which features 55 works by 44 different national artists working in photography, painting and mixed media. The theme of the exhibition is "The Landscape," and works will be available for purchase.

25425 Main Road, Cutchogue.

631-734-8545, alexferronegallery.com

DON'T MISS PINDAR VINEYARDS' DECADENT CHOCOLATE PAIRING EVENT.

GETTY IMAGES

GETTY IMAGES

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO, WHERE TO PLAY

OUT & ABOUT WITH THE KIDS

CURATED BY REBEKAH YAHOVES

TOP 5 KIDS EVENTS TO CHECK OUT THIS WEEK

FUN PARENT & CHILD PROGRAM AT THE HARBOR WALDORF SCHOOL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 9 A.M.

Enjoy an exciting outdoor program that includes baking, songs and puppet shows. It's suitable for young ones who have just started walking up to 30 months. Little visitors must be accompanied by a caregiver.

11 Carroll Street, Sag Harbor. 631-725-1520, harborwaldorfschool.org

THE BAKING COACH PRESENTS: SNOWMAN CAKE POPS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Cake-loving kiddos can stop by the Rogers Memorial Library for cake-pop-making kits they can make at home, with virtual instructions from master baker Lisa Basini of Baking Coach. Pre-registration is required.

91 Coopers Farm Road, Southampton. 631-283-0774, rogersmemorial.librarycalendar.com

LUCKY DUMPLINGS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 6-10 P.M.

Kiddos in grades 5-12 can learn how to make delicious dumplings from scratch at the Cutchogue-New Suffolk Library. You'll also explore the history behind Chinese dumplings, which can bring you luck in the New Year! Pre-registration is required.

27550 Main Road, Cutchogue. 631-734-6360, cutchoguelibrary.org

CANDY SUSHI

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 4:45-5:30 P.M.

Your pre-teen or teen in grades 5-12 can stop by the Quogue Library to make candy that looks like sushi. Pre-registration is required.

90 Quogue Street, Quogue. 631-653-4224, quogue.librarycalendar.com

TODDLER & TEENY TUMBLING WITH RACHEL HAAB

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 10:30-11:15 A.M.

Your kiddo ages 1-3 can tumble on over to the Community Learning Center at Holy Trinity for this fun class that will focus on movement and control. Parents or caregivers are required to stay



YOUR TEEN CAN PREPARE SOME SWEET CANDY SUSHI AT A FUN LIBRARY EVENT.

for the duration of the session.
44 Meadow Way, East Hampton.
631-604-2777, projectmost.org

FAMILY FUN ATTRACTIONS ON THE EAST END

THE CLUBHOUSE

Enjoy some serious sporting fun with your kiddos at The Clubhouse, where they'll enjoy bowling, arcade games, mini golf and snacks in a fun atmosphere.

174 Daniels Hole Road, East Hampton. 631-637-2695, clubhousehamptons.com

CUSTER INSTITUTE AND OBSERVATORY

Take your little explorer over to the Custer Institute and Observatory, which is open to the public every Saturday night from dusk until midnight. You can view the night sky through powerful telescopes, take a tour, or visit the library, exhibit room or gift shop. In addition, you can check out their website for frequent family-friendly events.

1115 Main Bayview Road, Southold. 631-765-2626, custerobservatory.org

LONG ISLAND AQUARIUM

Bring your little guppy over to one of the East End's most popular attractions, which includes exhibits like Amphibian

Alley, Amazon Rainforest and Butterflies. Tickets are \$30 for children and \$43 for adults. Little ones under age 2 can attend for free.

431 East Main Street, Riverhead. 631-208-9200, longislandaquarium.com/santa-brunch-december-4

KITES OF THE HARBOR

If you're looking for a gift or just somewhere fun to visit, take your little shoppers to Kites of the Harbor in Sag Harbor. You'll enjoy plenty of unique toys, games and gadgets as well as a very friendly staff.

75 Main Street, Sag Harbor. 631-725-9063, facebook.com/75mainst

NICK & TONI'S

If you're looking for somewhere fun to take the kiddos, bring 'em out to Nick & Toni's, which boasts family-style dining, pizza and a warm farmhouse setting. Desserts and drinks are also a treat for the whole family.

136 North Main Street, East Hampton. 631-324-3550, nickandtonis.com

SAFARI ADVENTURE

If you're looking for some active winter fun, take your kiddos ages 1-10 to one of the open play sessions at Safari Adventure, an 18-foot-tall soft playground that includes inflatables, a calming spa and over 30 video games.

1074 Pulaski Street, Riverhead. 631-727-4386, thesafariadventure.com

SAGTOWN COFFEE

If you and your little ones are looking

to warm up on a cold winter day, take them over to Sagtown Coffee, where the hot chocolate, tea selection and lattes get high marks from parents. While you're there, help yourself to a New York bagel, grilled cheese or yogurt bowl.

78 Main Street, Sag Harbor. 631-725-8696, sagtown.com

SOUTH FORK NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM & NATURE CENTER

If your little one loves nature, take them over to the South Fork History Museum, where they can view colorful floor-to-ceiling murals, aquariums featuring wildlife and a Marine Touch Tank. The museum is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

377 Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike, Bridgehampton. 631-599-2391, sofo.org

SOUTHAMPTON ICE RINK

Enjoy the public skating sessions at this clean and friendly local favorite. Skate rentals, refreshment options and lessons are also available.

668 County Road 39, Southampton. 631-283-2158, southamptonicerink.com

WILDWOOD LANES

Enjoy bowling, a snack bar, glow-in-the-dark events and a party room at Wildwood Lanes. Parents rave about the affordable prices and friendly service.

3951 Lake Avenue, Riverhead. 631-727-6622, wildwoodlanes.wixsite.com/wildwoodlanes/bowling

Find more
events online at
[DansPapers.com/
Events](http://DansPapers.com/Events)

FOOD & DRINK

Happy Hours, Brunch Spots & More

BY HARRY POWERS

Where is the happiest of hours? Who's to say, but Sag Pizza in Sag Harbor is introducing a happy hour from 3–5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. Small bites such as provolone fritters, prosciutto arancini, penne fritto and squash caponata crostini will be offered for between \$8 and \$10. And for drinks, have your choice of a spicy paloma, Aperol spritz, negroni topped off with prosecco, wine on tap, prosecco and draft beer for \$6 to \$12.

Wölffer Estate Vineyard might be known for their wines, but their cider line is another great part of their repertoire. The Sagaponack establishment uses New York State hand-picked apple juice and Ginjo-style sake yeast to create oishii, which is a Japanese cider. The apples in the mix include Idared, Granny Smith, Gold Rush, Pink Lady, Braeburn, Mutsu and Jonagold, and may be served chilled or mixed into a negroni, martini or cocktail of your choice. It also pairs well with sashimi, ramen and other delicious Japanese dishes. Other alternatives include spicy Mexican or Latin cuisine meals and hard cheese.

Chef's dinners are back at **Sen Restaurant** in Sag Harbor. The restaurant sees the events as "opportunities to let our chef's creativity come out and manifest in delicious ways." Hosted by Jesse Matsuoka, co-owner of Sen, each course is introduced by the respective brewer, chef or farmer, such as when Wölffer Estate winemaker Roman Roth regaled patrons with how Sen and Brooklyn Kura teamed up to create a sake. After two successful events, there will be plenty more this winter. Contact the restaurant if you're interested in reserving a spot, as space is limited.

The Treatery bakery and dessert shop in Jamesport opened recently to much fanfare. What began as a 1964 Shasta trailer that dished out cookies, cakes, whoopie pies, gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches and more at catered events now has a brick-and-mortar spot in the beautiful seaside town. Specialty desserts such as cakesicles and cookies coated in **Disset** chocolate are also offered.

What are our favorite weekend brunch spots, you ask? We're biased

toward **Rowdy Hall** and **The 1770 House** (the locally sourced oysters and sea scallops are A1) in East Hampton, **Gurney's** in Montauk, **Pierre's** in Bridgehampton and **Ram's Head Inn** on Shelter Island (order the creamy lobster bisque).

Did You Know?

Shelter Island's **Sylvester Manor** was established in 1651 as a provisioning plantation for the Barbadian sugar trade. Originally owned by an Anglo-Dutch sugar consortium and worked by enslaved Africans, indentured and paid Native American and European laborers, it has played an ever-changing but always important role in the culture of food. In the last two centuries it was an Enlightenment-era farm and then the country estate of one of America's first food industrialists, Professor Eben Norton Horsford, inventor of baking powder and the father of modern food chemistry. In the 21st century, it became the non-profit Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, which is dedicated to bringing sustainable agricultural practices back to Shelter Island. It has opened an online farm store for the winter, selling eggs and special breakfast boxes. Pork products, including spare ribs, center

cut chops, bacon, chorizo and sweet Italian sausage are also available. Visit their website to learn more.

Zakura has opened a takeout restaurant in East Hampton. It will be open seven days a week from 11:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m. and the menu includes small plates such as edamame, crispy Brussels sprouts and takoyaki, bento boxes, fried rice, sushi specials and regular rolls. For dessert, indulge in their delicious mochidoki, and Zakura offers many wonderful healthy teas and slushes as well.

Bits & Bites:

New year, negroni. The classic cocktail is so popular these days that many bars offer many versions of the 2–3-ingredient drink. **Nick & Toni's** interpretation, *Blondes Have More Fun*, features Barr Hill Vermont Gin, Bar Hill Tomcat Gin, Salers Aperitif, Borgogno Bianco Vermouth, Bitter Truth grapefruit bitters and one grapefruit peel.

Elaia Estiatorio in Bridgehampton offers a Greek Feast Menu, which serves the whole table for eight or more people. The largest package includes Greek salad, all five spreads, choice of four appetizers, choice of four main dishes and chef's choice dessert.

Few restaurants have as elegant of a dining room as **Sant Ambroeus** in

East Hampton. The small restaurant, which seats 50, includes a banquet hall and smaller room upholstered in Loro Piana fabrics. The cushioned rattan chairs placed around the tables could not be comfier and the dim lighting and candles add an ultramodern ambiance. As for food, we suggest ordering the Caesar salad, tuna carpaccio, eggplant parm or tagliatelle with bolognese sauce.

Union Burger Bar in Southampton might as well be called "Unique Burger," as their menu offers burger ingredient combinations that you'll be hard pressed to find anywhere else. For example, they serve mac and cheese, coleslaw with a pretzel bun and bacon, and onion rings on top of burgers, all for under \$20. The milkshakes are likewise terrific.

Speaking of brunch, the midday meal at **Salvatore's Restaurant** in Hampton Bays never misses. The wood-fired pizza, fresh pasta and classic Italian sandwiches, such as chicken parmesan hero, are exquisite. Oh, and it wouldn't be a true brunch without Salvatore's delicious mimosas. The vibe is excellent as well.

Food Quote:

"To eat is a necessity, but to eat intelligently is an art." —Francois de la Rochefoucauld



SEN RESTAURANT

DAN'S TASTE: FOOD & DRINK

Recipe: Manna Clam Chowder

The Beatles said that all you need is love, but during the cold winter all you need is soup, really. Chef Thomas Bogia of Southampton's Manna at the Lobster Inn kindly provided us with these simple instructions for making his sublime New England-style clam chowder at home.

Ingredients:

1/2 lb bacon
1/2 lb butter
3 cloves garlic

1 cup white wine
3 white onions
1 bunch celery
1 cup chopped parsley
8 potatoes
96 oz clam juice
2 quarts half-and-half
3 dozen clams chopped
1 sachet of thyme

Method:

1. Chop onions, celery and cooked bacon into 1/4-inch pieces. Add minced garlic.

2. In a 2-quart pot, combine all ingredients and cook on medium-high heat. Bring to a boil.

3. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, until potatoes are tender.

4. Add chopped clams and cook for 15–20 minutes.

Presentation:

Garnish with roasted corn, extra bacon, fresh thyme leaves and extra chopped parsley.



MANNA AT THE LOBSTER INN CLAM CHOWDER

COURTESY MANNA AT THE LOBSTER INN



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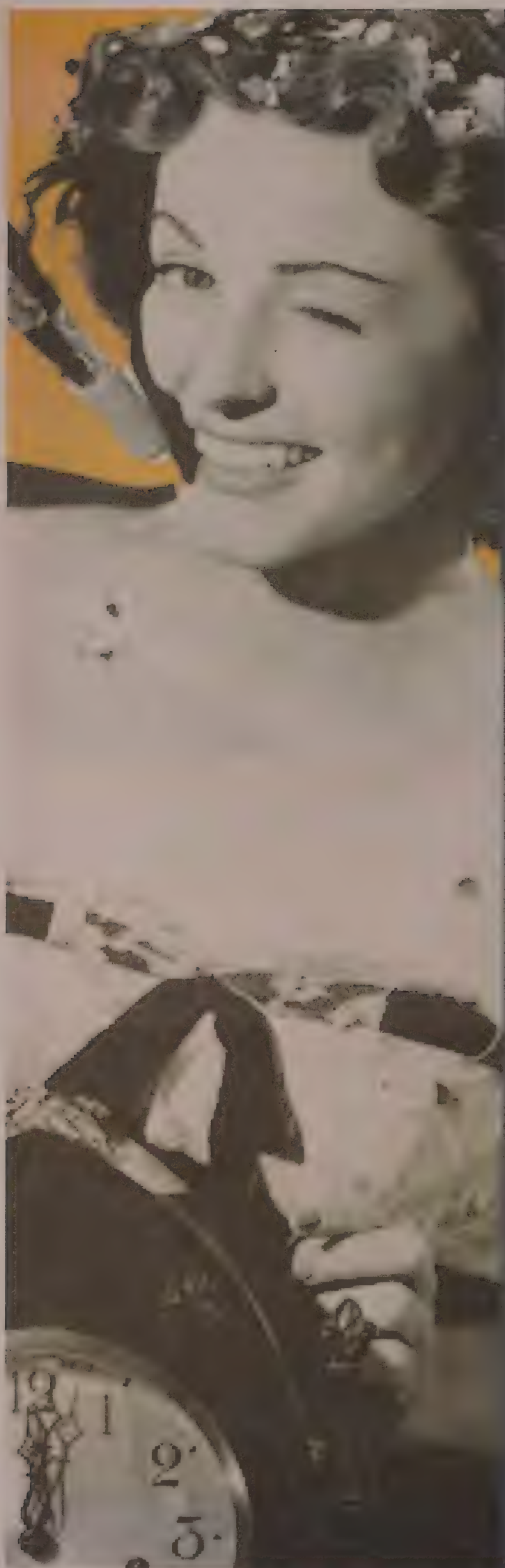


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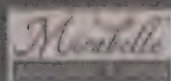
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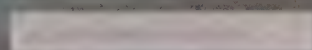
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OYSTER BAY

KITCHEN

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GARDEN CITY

Arlo

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317

ROCKY HILL



ROCKY HILL



ROCKY HILL

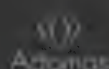
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DAN'S TASTE, FOOD & DRINK

Something to Wine About: 2018 Brut Rosé from Priest Ranch Wines

BY LINDA DELMONICO
PRUSSEN

A bottle of bubbly is an integral part of many celebrations. Looking ahead to your special occasions for 2023, what bottle should you pop open?

That depends on a lot of things. One, your budget. Two, those who will be enjoying it with you. And three, of course, is taste.

If \$60 fits into your budget, you may want to consider the 2018 Brut Rosé from Priest Ranch Wines. This is an extremely dry blush sparkling wine from Napa Valley California. The tasting notes describing the color in the glass as salmon do not do it

justice. It is a stunning pink and really just a shade more vibrant than salmon, almost a jewel tone. There is strawberry fruit on the nose, but what's truly striking is how exceptionally clean the nose is, due to being aged 24 months in stainless steel. Depending on one's palate, this intentional absence of oak can be celebrated by its exceptionally pristine flavor. There is more strawberry on the nose than on the palate. The flavor on the palate is predominantly lemon and apricot with very light, clean notes of shortbread. Again, the finish is extremely dry with good acidity. The wine is crafted in the traditional méthode Champenoise where the

second fermentation occurs in the bottle. This wine will pair beautifully with your appetizers and seafood.

If you prefer to save a bit of money and are looking for something a bit less dry, you might want to consider the array of wines from Piper Sonoma, retailing in the \$20 range. A quick budget tip, without sacrificing quality: To space out the expense while still pouring some wonderful wines, have a bottle of 2018 Brut Rosé from Priest Ranch Wines on hand to greet guests at your 2023 parties, and also have a few bottles of Piper Sonoma wines to drink throughout the evening.



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KEVIN LANG

10 tips for Maintaining a Wood-Burning Fireplace

The fireplace is the focal point of many homes. Consider these best practices for fireplace maintenance.

Install Carbon Monoxide, Smoke Detectors

Issues like carbon monoxide poisoning or smoke in the house could arise when you have a clogged chimney.

Remove Soot, Creosote

Both of these residues have to be removed professionally, if necessary, to prevent it from blocking airflow.

Check The Chimney

Whether you have a masonry or metal chimney, it is vital that you regularly check it for any cracks, dents, or rust, as they could be signs of a bigger problem.

Use The Proper Wood

Generally, wood should be dried for 6-12 months before they're good for burning in the hearth. To make them dry faster, it's best to split logs into small pieces of wood.

Test Before Using

Just light up a few pieces of wood first and check if the smoke is released through the

chimney. If it enters the room, troubleshoot and correct the problem first before loading up lots of wood.

Install a Blower and Heat Proof Glass Door

The glass door will not only prevent sparks and embers from tumbling out from the hearth into the room. A fan or blower installed will help circulate the heat.

Troubleshoot and Correct Problems

For example, white stains in the bricks of the chimney can be a sign of too much moisture due to leakage.

Consider Safety Precautions

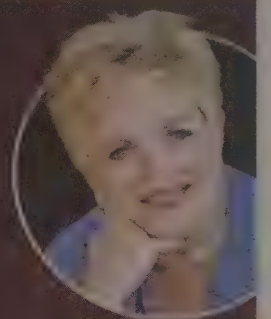
Keep combustible carpets or furniture as far away from the hearth as possible, make sure you're using the proper tools to clean the fireplace, and never leave a fire unattended.

Hire a Professional Chimney Sweep

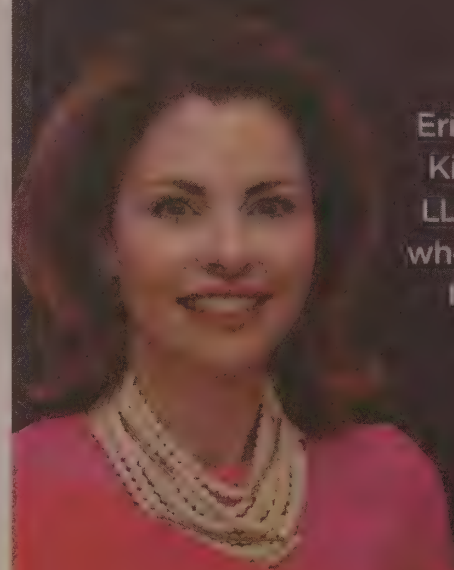
Have a certified chimney sweep inspect it at least once a year or more frequently.

In addition to this column's insurance tip of the week, I want readers to know they can call me for advice, questions or any coverage concerns at any time at 1-866-964-4434.

Victoria Schneps presents POWER WOMEN PODCAST



Erin Sweeney, President of King Sweeney Strategies LLC, speaks of the people who impacted her early life, her role there, and her secrets to success.



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EAST END LIVING

Barrett's Dollhouse Displayed at The Church Maker's Market

BY OLIVER PETERSON

As Christmas approached on Saturday and Sunday, December 10–11, The Church in Sag Harbor held their second annual Holiday Maker's Market and the very special Barrett's Dollhouse was a standout among the items on display.

Visitors over that weekend came to find a variety of treasures and unique gifts by local makers and artisans selling items such as clothing, jewelry, home goods, foodstuffs, skincare and more, but The Church also became a festive scene brimming with holiday spirit and decorations.

The event also featured a painting workshop from Hamptons Community Outreach and their Hamptons Art Camp, yummy food and drink, and, of course, Barrett's Dollhouse on display for all to marvel at in wonder!

Created completely from scratch (structurally) by Keith Green, of the Ciardullo Green team at Sotheby's International Realty, for his granddaughter Barrett during the pandemic, the house is truly amazing. Green set to work in his basement wood shop in East Hampton, where he lives with his real estate and life partner Ann



KEITH GREEN WITH BARRETT'S DOLLHOUSE AT THE CHURCH HOLIDAY MAKER'S MARKET



BARRETT'S DOLLHOUSE KITCHEN



JUST A SWITCH AND THE LIGHTS ARE ON.



KEITH GREEN SHOWING HIS GRANDDAUGHTER BARRETT HER DOLLHOUSE IN HIS STUDIO

Ciardullo, reimagining it as a place to build his 1:12 scale (for 6-inch dolls) replica of a beloved family home he renovated in Old Lyme, Connecticut.

Green sold the home more than a decade ago, but his memories remained strong — and it shows in the 12-room structure he's since built. He sourced materials and miniature furniture from around the world to make the tiny house just right, and he handmade anything he couldn't find to ensure all of it was reproduced in painstakingly accurate, miniature detail.

For example, just one oven took 137 pieces and more than a month to complete as a fully painted object.

"They are real other than they can't cook," he told *Behind the Hedges* of the ovens last November, when Barrett was 3 years old, adding, "It was so much fun to figure it out."

The house, which has impressive working lights throughout, can now bring joy to all who get to see it at events like the Holiday Maker's Market, and young Barrett has a true heirloom she can one day pass down to her children.

EAST END LIVING

Thankfulness Leads to Longevity — Find Gratitude in the New Year

BY PETER MICHALOS, MD

Research is showing when you have an attitude of gratitude you are healthier and live longer. Gratitude reduces toxic emotions, from envy and resentment to regrets and frustration. Grateful people have more self-esteem.

Holding grudges is like swallowing a poison pill and waiting and watching for the other person to die. Grudges raise cortisol, the stress hormone, and adrenaline, which is like a fire alarm in our bodies. It eats up the lining of our stomach and reduces our "happiness levels."

Grateful people exercise more often and tend to go for annual physicals. Both of these help with longevity.

Kindness, sharing, generosity, trust and gratitude all help raise our "happy hormone" endorphins. These are what helped early men and women survive in groups during adverse conditions.

I encourage people to be grateful for

all that they have and may have had, and to enjoy this visit on the planet. As my friend Dr. Leah Houston told me: "It ain't no dress rehearsal." Enjoy it the first time around.

Lastly, New Year's resolutions should focus on health, wealth, sharing, gratitude and the time to enjoy it.

My friend Dr. Magdalena Swierczewski reminded me to share with all to have an annual physical and bloodwork because health is the greatest wealth.

And finally, take time to laugh. As my comedian friend and former Ms. New York, Michele McDonald, told me, "Laughter is the best medicine sometimes."

Think positive and test negative.

Peter Michalos, MD is an FAAO board-certified ophthalmologist, clinical associate professor at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a Southampton resident.



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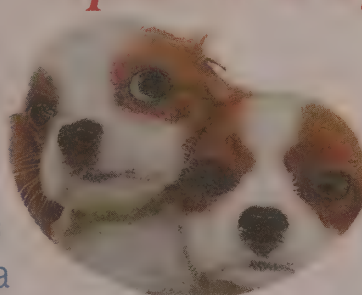
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EAST END LIVING

7 Fitness Resolutions That Are Easy to Keep

Resolutions to get in shape, exercise more and eat healthier foods are popular each January. Optimism reigns when making resolutions, but for many, the difficulty lies in keeping them. Individuals looking to get healthier in the year ahead can try these strategies to stay the course.

WAKE UP EARLIER

Waking up a half-hour earlier each day can have a substantial impact. That small amount of extra time can be devoted to meditation, deep breathing exercises or even some yoga stretches.

MOVE AROUND MORE FREQUENTLY

Many people with office jobs spend hours sitting in front of computers. A sedentary lifestyle can have an adverse effect on overall health. Set a timer or use a reminder on a fitness tracker to remind you to get up and move around for a little bit every hour.

STAND STRAIGHTER

Posture tends to decline with age,

advises AARP. This can cause the spine to lose flexibility. Stretches to maintain posture can help anyone stand straighter and improve long-term health.

EAT MORE VEGETABLES

Vague goals like "eating better" are difficult to maintain because there is no specific goal to achieve. Rather, a

resolution like eating a fruit or vegetable each day at every meal is something measurable. Vegetables can be hidden in favorite foods, such as deserts. Swap pasta noodles for spiralized zucchini as another easy fix.

ADD "BURSTS" TO YOUR WALK

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic tout

the benefits of interval training. While high-impact workouts may not be appropriate for everyone, adding little speed bursts to a daily walk can provide significant health benefits. Aim for 30 to 60 seconds of rapid walking at regular intervals to shake up the workout.

DRINK MORE WATER

Increasing water intake can help you feel fuller, thus reducing the likelihood that you will overeat. Gradually increase your water intake by adding a few ounces each day until drinking water becomes rote.

TAKE A WORKOUT OUTSIDE

Switch up your normal routine by making use of the great outdoors to exercise. Instead of three miles on the treadmill or elliptical machine at the gym, opt for three miles on a local hiking trail.

Healthy resolutions are easier to keep when you have firm ideas and choose reasonable goals.

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OUT EAST END

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Danny Ximo: Sag Harbor's Fabulous Female Impersonator

BY DAVID TAYLOR

The art spectrum is vast — some artists paint, others sing and a small but growing number of them perform in drag. Daniel Orellano, more commonly known as Danny Ximo or RaffaShow, has been honing his art of female impersonation in Sag Harbor for over a decade, and has become an iconic diva to fans of Our Fabulous Variety Show (OFVS).

From his childhood in Argentina, Ximo felt an “artistic fate within my soul,” he says. As a boy, he would put on imaginary TV shows for his dog, performing as the charming host Ximo, a character he invented. “I knew I was different in the sense that I did things that other boys didn’t do,” he says, admitting to playing dress up in his mother’s clothes.

When a teenage Ximo was getting into theater in 1996, his teacher asked if each student wanted to use their birth name or a stage name, and “that’s when Danny Ximo was born,” he explains. His first memory of performing onstage was in *Peter Pan* as Captain Hook’s right-hand man, Mr. Smee.

From there, he got the opportunity to be a part of a unique project to support an Argentinian zoo. Students would create a TV show that taught families about animals, and that concept would be developed into the play *Waku Waku: The Musical Comedy* at the Metropolitan Theatre on Buenos Aires’ Corrientes Avenue. For his songwriting efforts and work on the production, an 18-year-old Ximo was paid \$4,000.

“Sometimes when I look back on that moment, I’m impressed how creative I was to work on this big production,” he says, adding that one of the songs used, “How Come?” he wrote when he was 9.

On an educational trip to New York to see *The Wizard of Oz* in Spanish, Ximo had the words of his mother echoing in his mind: “Things here (in Argentina) aren’t good. If you think

about being an actor or performer, you might as well think about doing something while you’re there, because there’s no future for you here.” Ximo knew his mother was right. The economy and political situation weren’t ideal in his home country at the time, and an acting career there seemed implausible. In December 2020, he moved to the U.S.

“What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. Although it hurt, I decided to stay here and legalize myself in the States,” he says. Setting up his new life in Sag Harbor, he acted on the side at first, while working hard and saving up money. His dedication to his role as the Waterfront Beauty Salon and Barbershop receptionist would pay off in promotions to manicurist, waxer, hair stylist and finally owner over 20 years.

He’s best known as the starring diva, RaffaShow, in numerous OFVS shows, and in the recent Winter Varietal After Hours Diva Cabaret on December 10, he introduced his partner Robbie Volkel’s diva, Miss Nina, to the world, alongside the third member of the Siren Sisters, Rusty Nails aka John Mesina.

“Everything now seems to be very nice toward me — owning the (salon), having a nice partner and good friends, doing whatever I want, and although my artistic phase was on standby for a while, now I can do my performances every now and then,” Ximo says, noting that some of his performances have moved individuals in really profound ways. “You never know how you can touch somebody’s soul or how helpful you can be just performing in a way that makes people feel invited and welcomed.”

When did you begin to dip your toes into drag?

My friend Arlene Furer used to own The Cigar Bar for several years before I met her. I would dress up as a woman for Halloween, and she knew that I was a performer and used to be an actor. We had been friends for a



DANNY XIMO

COURTESY DANNY XIMO

long time. One day, she decided to introduce some entertainment besides the bar itself — where people went to smoke cigars and drink — (because) she wanted to have some kind of attraction,” Ximo explains. “And she proposed, ‘How about you, a performer who I’ve seen in drag, do a drag show?’ At first, I was like, ‘Are you out of your mind? Let me ask my friends and partner what they think. I mean, I will do it, but I need some extra support.’ I went back to my partner and friends, and they were like, ‘Oh, why not? Are you getting paid? Of course you should do it.’”

In 2008, we started to do the Raf-

faShow. The name “RaffaShow” comes from an Italian singer I like, her name is Raffaella Carrà. “Danny Ximo” is for onstage, but this one is a different persona so I had to come up with a new name. That’s how “RaffaShow” became the name of my daughter. That’s how it started, and it was a hit ... a total success. I was on the front page of a local newspaper as Marilyn Monroe with the (headline) “Boys Will Be Girls.”

I was with Arlene at The Cigar Bar for two years, then through a friend I moved to SkyBar, which is what Page is now in Sag Harbor, and I did several years there.

OUT EAST END



RAFFASHOW

When did your partnership with Our Fabulous Variety Show begin?

Then I met up with Anita Boyer and Kasia Klimiuk, the directors of Our Fabulous Variety Show, in 2011. At first, they proposed for me to be part of the group, because they wanted talent. They didn't know about me doing drag. ...

Then we did a Christmas show ... with the number "Sisters" (the reprieve performed by the two male leads of the film *White Christmas*). ... It's not full drag, but they were nervous to ask me to do this. She was like, "Would you be able to do the number when the boys imitate or mock the sisters?" And I was like, "Yes, as a matter of fact, I do drag." ...

That's how everything got started. It would be me, the host, and then we decided to include the kids in my numbers. I do things with respect and with love. I always say this: Although I'm in drag, I don't define myself as a drag

queen, but as a female impersonator. I think drag queens can be more sexy and sometimes a little more obscene. Not all but some of them. It's no big deal, I don't get offended. ...

Kasia and Anita are great and say I can do whatever I want. I'm in charge and the producer of the drag section, they leave it in my hands and know that I'm not going to do a strip tease onstage. It's a family-friendly show. ... The kids are amazing. I've known all of them from little kids, and some of them are teenagers already. The level of respect they have for me, for Raffa, for the RaffaShow in general, us queens, and they know Robbie is my partner. It's really a family-friendly place, OFVS.

So drag has always been more of a performative art form for you, not a way to explore your gender?

I think I mentioned wearing my mother's clothes when I was a kid, and my mother being cool with it, but it was never a matter of "I need to be a woman." It's fun. In the beginning when Arlene proposed this, I was a little shocked, like maybe I could get confused about it, but we're talking about 2008. If you think about it, it wasn't that long ago but it was so much more different from now. Now there are drag queens all over the place, shows and TV shows, but then was a little different. But I never thought about becoming a real woman. ...

Somebody gave me a compliment after one of my shows: "I love how you play your femininity when you're onstage." And that's why I say I'm a female impersonator, because I'm trying to imitate everything — except my voice. Sometimes I try to fake it, but I don't like it. Everything else is acting, every single move. ... I can be in drag in the dressing room and I'm still being me, but then I get onstage and it's like a magic touch, and I become something different. My femininity comes through my pores, but I'm very conscious that it is a stage thing. It's not like I would like to be like that. It is a lot of work between the makeup, hiding your thing and high heels — it's something that I definitely will not choose to do every single day. ...

But I really, really enjoy it. It became my therapy. It is funny, the first time I did Tina Turner, I was going through a breakup with one of my partners ... and I just used Tina to release whatever I had within myself, whether it was anger or sadness, I was

just shaking it off, literally. It's very therapeutic.

How would you like to see the East End drag scene develop?

We definitely need more action here. I'm always looking for opportunities for myself and for others. ... Bella Noche does the same things I do and as readings for kids, as well. She goes to the edge of sexiness, and I feel very identified with her and would like to do something with her eventually. On the East End, nowadays it's the three of us — Rusty Nails, myself and Miss Nina — and I know Bella came to do a reading in Bridgehampton this summer, but there's not much offered. It would be great to expand it, and I would love to see drag queen shows pretty much every day or weekend, like a destination. It's huge all over the country, even in the middle of the country. ...

Also, Our Fabulous Variety Show has workshops, and we're going to have a drag queen makeup workshop with kids and whoever wants to come. We're going to introduce it little by little. We're not necessarily going against the flow but with all things that have happened that are so anti-drag queen, anti-gay, we're trying to ... encourage people to support us.

RaffaShow's next performance with OFVS takes place on Saturday, January 28 at 8 p.m. at LTV Studios in Wainscott. For more info about upcoming shows, visit ourfabulousvarietyshow.org.



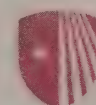
MISS NINA, RAFFASHOW AND RUSTY NAILS WITH THE OFVS WINTER VARIETAL AFTER HOURS PERFORMERS

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OBITUARY

Soccer Legend and Longtime East Hampton Resident Pelé Has Died at 82

BY OLIVER PETERSON

Pelé, the Brazilian soccer phenom who won a record three World Cups (in 1958, 1962 and 1970) and was among the sports world's greatest legends from the last century, died Thursday, December 29 after a monthlong hospitalization. He was 82.

A longtime Hamptons resident, the iconic athlete and king of "the beautiful game" had been receiving treatment for colon cancer since 2021, but the medical center where he had been hospitalized said he died of multiple organ failure caused by his cancer.

Pelé entered the hospital on November 29 to treat a respiratory infection exacerbated by COVID-19, and while it was originally reported that his health had been improving, things took a turn for the worse. By Christmas Eve, December 24, his family had gathered to be with him and say goodbye at Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo.

He was gone five days later, leaving a hole where his outsized persona once lived, but his indelible legacy will remain.

The soccer star became a Hamptons resident in 1979, when, at near the height of his fame, he bought a waterfront home on Waterhole Road in the Clearwater section of Springs, East Hampton for \$156,000.

He spent nearly 40 years here, enjoying summers in Springs, upgrading and expanding the house over the decades, before selling for \$2.85 million in August of 2018 — scoring another huge win at age 77. By then he was spending most of his time in Brazil, but his absence was still felt by fans and those who had gotten to know him locally.

During his time here, Pelé played in the East Hampton Artists & Writers Charity Softball Game, adding his name to the often-repeated list of vaunted figures who graced Herrick Park with their presence at the historic game.

In 1982, he sat for world-renowned East Hampton artist Elaine de Kooning, who painted portraits of him at her home and studio on Alewife Brook Road in Northwest Woods. The Smithsonian Institution's National



PELÉ IS HOISTED ON THE SHOULDERS OF HIS TEAMMATES AFTER BRAZIL WON THE WORLD CUP FINAL AGAINST ITALY, 4-1, IN MEXICO CITY'S ESTADIO AZTECA, JUNE 21, 1970.

Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. chronicles the sitting as part of their Catalog of American Portraits, forever memorializing Pelé's place in Hamptons history.

According to the National Portrait Gallery, an *East Hampton Star* reporter who witnessed the sitting quoted de Kooning on the day:

"Pelé is not a studio man. Obviously his action is outdoors," de Kooning told the *Star*, adding, "The light is perfect today — as if it was washed by last night's rain. And the sunlight filtering through the trees makes interesting patterns on the scene — sort of a gesture of nature."

And in September of 1990, Hamptons TV station WVVH caught him during a photo shoot on Clearwater Beach, holding court and being generous with onlookers in his dapper white suit.

"Pelé changed everything. He transformed football into art, entertainment," Neymar, a fellow Brazilian soccer player, said, reacting to his death on Instagram Thursday. "Football and Brazil elevated their standing thanks to the King! He is gone, but his magic will endure. Pelé is eternal!"

Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, in the small city of Tres Coracoes in the interior of Minas Gerais state on October 23, 1940, Pelé grew up shining shoes to buy his modest soccer gear.

He went on to become widely regarded as one of soccer's greatest players, and spent nearly two decades enchanting fans and dazzling opponents as the game's most prolific scorer with Brazilian club Santos and the Brazil national team.

Pelé's grace, athleticism and mesmerizing moves transfixed players and fans. He orchestrated a fast, fluid style that revolutionized the sport — a samba-like flair that personified his country's elegance on the field.

He carried Brazil to soccer's heights and became a global ambassador for his sport in a journey that began on the streets of Sao Paulo state, where he would kick a sock stuffed with newspapers or rags.

Different sources, counting different sets of games, list Pelé's goal totals anywhere between 650 (league matches) and 1,281 (all senior matches, some against low-level competition). In all, Pelé played 114 matches with Brazil, scoring a record 95 goals, including 77 in official matches.

He later found his way to New York, and eventually the Hamptons, when he joined the New York Cosmos of the North American Soccer League in 1975. Despite being 34 years old and past his prime, Pelé gave soccer a higher profile in North America. He led the Cosmos to the 1977 league title and scored 64 goals in three seasons.

On the field, Pelé's energy, vision

and imagination drove a fast, fluid style that exemplified "O Jogo Bonito" — Portuguese for "The Beautiful Game," which became the title of his 1977 autobiography, *My Life and the Beautiful Game*, making the phrase part of soccer's lexicon.

Pelé ended his career on October 1, 1977, in an exhibition between his two former teams, the Cosmos and Santos, before a crowd in New Jersey of some 77,000 fans. He played half the game with each club.

His fame was such that in 1967 factions of a civil war in Nigeria agreed to a brief cease-fire so Pelé could play an exhibition match in the country. He was knighted by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in 1997, and when he visited Washington to help popularize soccer in North America, it was the U.S. president who stuck out his hand first.

"My name is Ronald Reagan, I'm the president of the United States of America," the host said to his visitor. "But you don't need to introduce yourself because everyone knows who Pelé is."

Pelé's life after soccer took many forms. He was a politician — Brazil's Extraordinary Minister for Sport — a wealthy businessman, and an ambassador for UNESCO and the United Nations. He had roles in movies and soap operas and even composed songs and recorded CDs of popular Brazilian music.

As his health deteriorated, his travels and appearances became less frequent. He was often seen in a wheelchair during his final years and did not attend a ceremony to unveil a statue of him representing Brazil's 1970 World Cup team. Pelé spent his 80th birthday isolated with a few family members at a beach home.

Pelé would endure difficult times in his personal life, especially when his son Edinho was arrested on drug-related charges. Pelé had two daughters out of wedlock and five children from his first two marriages, to Rosemeri dos Reis Cholbi and Assiria Seixas Lemos. He later married businesswoman Marcia Cibebe Aoki.

He was predeceased by his younger brother, Jair Arantes do Nascimento "Zoca," who died, also of cancer, at age 77 in March of 2020.

—With Associated Press

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When the new year arrives, many people focus on changes that can be implemented in the months to come. This time of year is a popular one to make resolutions to clean and organize homes and offices.

There are plenty of things that can use a little organizational attention. There's no ideal way to get organized. Whatever works is a good approach, but the following are six strategies to help clear the clutter.

UTILIZE TO-DO LISTS

People tend to be less productive when they're storing all of their tasks in their brains. The first step to getting organized is to remove those plans from the head and put them down on paper or in some other tracking tool. A digital to-do list manager, for example, enables you to see all of your tasks, deadlines and due dates in one place so you can get things done more efficiently. Carry around a notepad or use the digital notes app on a phone to jot down thoughts and needs as they come up.

CORRAL YOUR "SMALLS"

Smalls are keys, phones, chargers, wallets, headphones and other accessories. When these items are grouped together, they're easier to find so you can

stay on track. Invest in an attractive organizer and install it by the front door or another high-traffic area. You'll cut down on trying to find those smaller items when running errands.

CONQUER CLUTTER REGULARLY

It's easy to be put off by organizing when clutter has gotten out of control. Instead, by cleaning up items on a daily or weekly basis, it's much easier to keep ahead of clutter. Treat it like a daily job, including sorting mail and tossing unnecessary items; emptying waste pails; dusting the desk; deleting emails; and putting items back where they belong.

CATEGORIZE EMAILS

Utilize the folder creation option from popular email providers to sort your messages. Drop messages that need attention into categories of your choosing, such as school, health and receipts. Then you'll know which folder to go into when searching for what you need, eliminating the time-consuming task of scrolling through a full inbox.

GIVE ONE, TOSS ONE

When bringing new items into the home, follow the



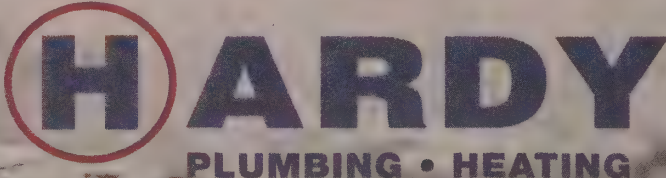
METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

procedure of giving away or throwing out one item for each new item that is received or purchased. This can help to tame clutter.

MISE EN PLACE YOUR LIFE

"Mise en place" is French for "put in place." It is used in the kitchen to refer to setting out all ingredients needed in a recipe. The same concept can be used elsewhere. Lay out clothing on the dresser for the next day. Prep the foyer with items you need, like an umbrella, shoes and paperwork. Organize backpacks so they're ready for the school day. Establish a to-go bag at work for items that need to be brought home.

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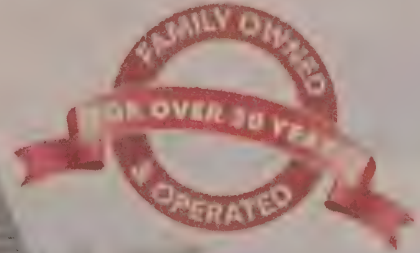
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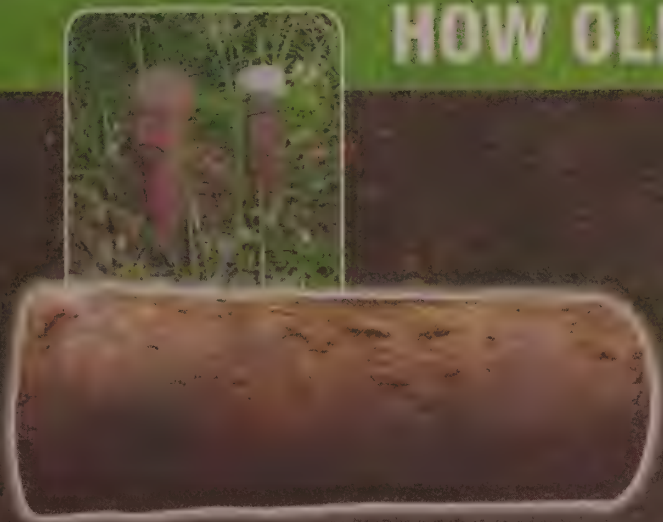


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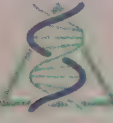
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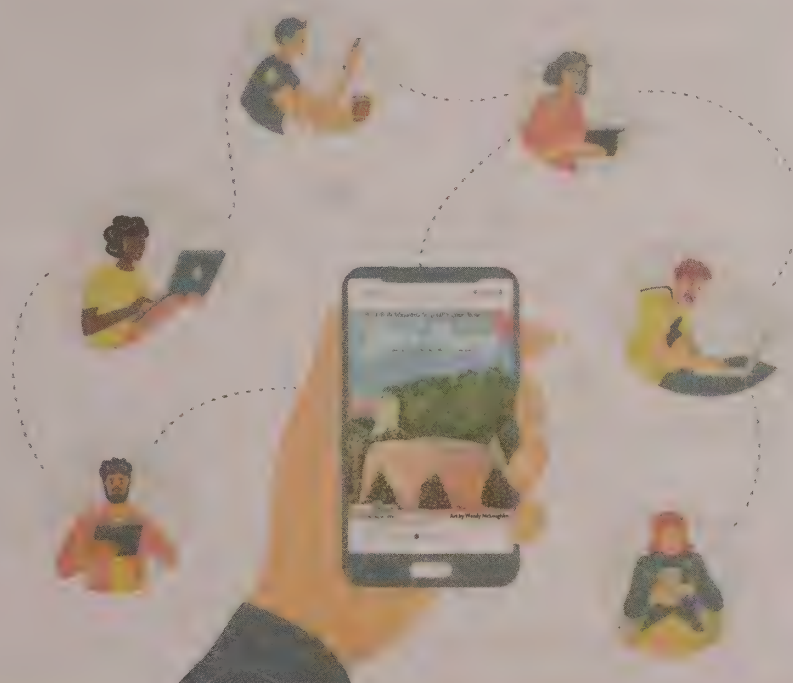


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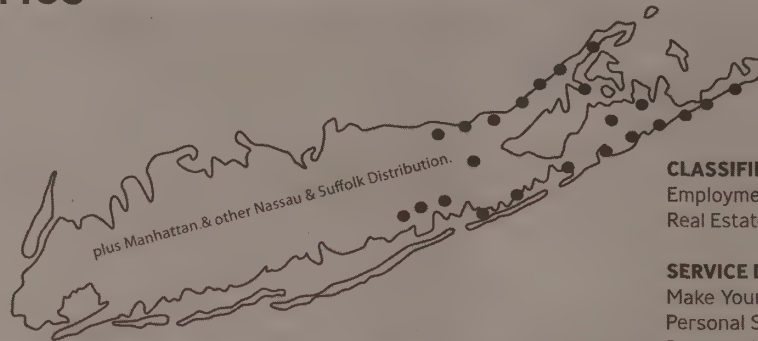
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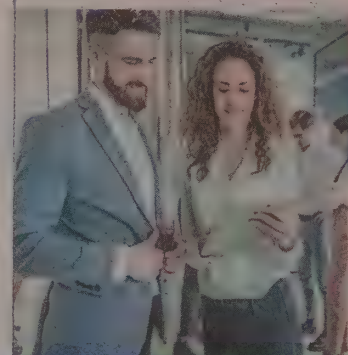
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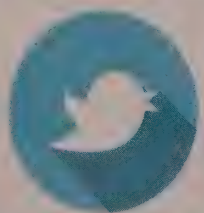
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NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SALE OF COLLATERAL. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, for default in payment and performance of certain obligations under certain Pledge Agreement by the defaulting Debtor/Borrower/Pledgor, as set forth further below, William E. Mannion, licensed auctioneer, NYC DCA License No. 796322, and/or Matthew D. Mannion, licensed auctioneer, NYC DCA License No. 1434494, on behalf of Blue Castle (Cayman) Ltd., Secured Party, will sell, pursuant to Section 9-610 of the Uniform Commercial Code, at public auction certain Collateral as set forth below.

Manner of Disposition: Via the virtual Cisco WebEx Platform and in-person at the offices of Offit Kurman, P.A., Attorney's for Secured Party, located at 590 Madison Avenue, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10022.

Date and Time of Sale: January 12, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Terms of Public Sale: The below defined Collateral will be sold "as is", without representation or warranty of any kind. The sale is subject to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale and such revisions thereto as may be announced at the start or prior to the auction: commencing (including without limitation, terms and conditions with respect to the availability of additional information, bidding requirements, deposit amounts, bidding procedures, and the consummation of the public sale), which will also be available by contacting Secured Party's representatives: Jason A. Nagi, Esquire, Offit Kurman, P.A. at jason.nagi@offitkurman.com or 212-380-4180, Joyce A. Kuhns, Esquire, Offit Kurman, P.A. at jkuhns@offitkurman.com or 410-209-6400, or Matthew D. Mannion at mdmannion@jpandr.com or 212-267-6698.

Note to Potential Bidders: Only a bona fide bidder who wires 10% of its opening bid in an amount not less than \$500,000.00, lien holders and the Debtor will be permitted to participate in the auction. The bid deadline is January 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. ET. The successful bidder must increase its/his/her initial deposit to total at least 10% of the winning bid price, no less than 24 hours after the auction. Secured Party reserves the right to reject all bids and to terminate or adjourn the sale to another time or place without further publication.

Secured Party further reserves the right to purchase some or all of the Collateral at the auction and to bid all or some part of the outstanding indebtedness in lieu of cash. Secured Party reserves the right to sell the Collateral, individually and/or in lots.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that in the event the net sale proceeds (after expenses and costs including attorneys' fees) of said sale(s) are not sufficient to satisfy the indebtedness secured by the said agreement(s), the Debtor(s)/Borrower(s)/Pledgor(s) will be liable for the deficiency.

Collateral Package: Secured Party: Blue Castle (Cayman) Ltd. Debtor/Pledgor: Nicole Gallagher Pledge Agreement Date: February 7, 2020 Collateral: Collateral shall mean all Pledged Membership Interests in Borrower Wickapogue 1 LLC, books and records relating to the Pledged Membership Interests and all rights, distributions, certificates, options, securities, security entitlements and other investment property or financial assets that may hereafter be received, receivable, distributed or exercised in respect of, or exchanged for, all or any of such Pledged Membership Interests, and all proceeds of all of the foregoing. Borrower is the owner of improved real estate at 145 Wickapogue Road, Southampton, Suffolk County, NY 11968, subject to mortgages in the aggregate outstanding principal amount of \$5,750,000.00 plus accrued fees and costs totaling an estimated \$6,932,285.48 as of November 2, 2022, with accruing per diem interest thereafter of \$3,532.81, plus fees and costs of sale, in favor of Secured Party. The real estate is subject to a foreclosure action pending in the United States District Court Eastern District of New York, Case No. 2:22-cv-05422-GRB-LGD.

Further Information: Upon execution of a confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement, additional due diligence information will be made available by contacting Secured Party's representatives: Jason A. Nagi, Esquire, Offit Kurman, P.A. at jason.nagi@offitkurman.com or 212-380-4180, Joyce A. Kuhns, Esquire, Offit Kurman, P.A. at jkuhns@offitkurman.com or 410-209-6400, or Matthew D. Mannion at mdmannion@jpandr.com or 212-267-6698.

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HIGH PROFILE

Congressman Nick LaLota: A Lifetime of Service Continues to Congress

BY TODD SHAPIRO

From a young age Nick LaLota heard the calling to serve his community and country: first as a Navy man, later as a local elected official, and, as of January 3, as a member of the 118th Congress.

Chosen by the voters to represent New York's First Congressional District, LaLota succeeds former Congressman Lee Zeldin in representing the East End. In a fierce campaign, LaLota was challenged in the primary and in the general election. Successful in both pursuits, LaLota secured over 55% of the vote in NY-01 on November 8, and has been entrusted with the duty of representing 700,000 hardworking Long Islanders.

"My campaign was focused on solving the tangible quality-of-life issues hurting Long Islanders — the cost of inflation, government overspending and a weak American energy policy; national security issues like the open border allowing criminal trafficking, fentanyl and drugs to flood our communities; and restoring accountability and integrity to Washington, D.C.," he says. "I believe my message and commitment to working across the aisle to help all Long Island families resonated with voters, who are affected daily by these important and avoidable issues."

Nationally speaking, Long Island's congressional races were largely considered a bellwether for the political tides of the country. Republicans dominated elections on Long Island, especially in Suffolk County, which now returns a wholly Republican congressional delegation.

"The Republican House Majority can thank the focus New York Republican candidates' campaigns maintained on the economy and public safety for the success we had on Election Day," he says. "From the top of the ticket to those running for State Assembly, we all had a boost from our collective approach to the common-sense issues hitting voters in their wallets and our commitment to stopping the flow of fentanyl and restoring public safety."

For LaLota, though, public service is not just a career, but a way of life. Raised by a family with police and military roots, LaLota secured one of the few, coveted appointments to the United States Naval Academy. After attending the prestigious institution, LaLota became a U.S. Navy surface warfare officer.

Throughout his military career, LaLota would serve in various leadership capacities, namely as assistant operations officer on the USS Curts and as a tactical action officer on the USS Carl Vinson. He would be awarded a Joint Service Commendation Medal for his efforts in the Global War on Terrorism.

LaLota would rise to the rank of lieutenant before his honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy in 2007.

"Through the campaign I talked about putting service over self and this was our way of life in the Navy," he says. "I am optimistic that the many

incoming members from both parties who have a professional military background come in with a slightly different perspective than some of our more partisan colleagues and an eagerness to work across the aisle to get the job done for our constituents and the nation as a whole."

Upon his return to civilian life, LaLota would maintain his commitment to serving his community. He was chosen to assist in various positions for elected officials, first, as a chief of staff to a member of the New York State Senate. In this capacity, he would direct legislative initiatives, oversee constituent services and conduct community outreach.

As a force in local affairs, LaLota would transition to local government. Serving as the influential and high-profile commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, he assisted in streamlining access and securing election integrity.

Most recently, LaLota served as the chief of staff to the Suffolk County Legislature. Here, he would advise the presiding officer of the Legislature on various local matters. With in-depth knowledge of the inner workings of government, LaLota assisted in crafting a \$3.7 billion budget that prioritized the taxpayer while offering outstanding services to Suffolk's 1.5 million residents.

"Having a working knowledge of federal, state, county and village government will certainly be an asset to our residents and local municipalities," he says. "And while the new district lines are expansive, I ... am very much attuned with local and county-wide issues and have a network of local governmental colleagues I can collaborate with on the ultimate goal of how to best serve our residents."

In 2013, LaLota was appointed to the Amityville Board of Trustees. He would then successfully run for election and re-election in 2014 and 2015, respectively. During his tenure in this elected capacity, LaLota prioritized village services for the locality of 10,000. He would serve as the chairman of the Village Committee to the Police Department and the chairman of the Committee to the Fire Department.

Throughout his chairmanship of these committees, he bettered the local quality of life by tackling issues of public safety. He would lead a push to increase the number of uniformed members of the Amityville Police Department. He would also increase funding for first responders and fire services by 40%, refurbishing multiple ambulances and enabling volunteer firefighters to be equipped with the lifesaving gear they need to do their jobs.

"Public safety is a basic necessity," he says. "All Long Islanders should have a reasonable expectation of living in a safe neighborhood, which is why we must work with, support and respect the role of law enforcement so they can most effectively serve and protect our communities. We need to talk about our border when discussing public safety, because the porous border is the root of many public safety issues we are facing; the open border is a national



NICK LALOTA

security issue and it must be closed before we can reasonably tackle the immigration, human trafficking and drug crises."

Throughout the campaign, his district was the focus of much political punditry. Despite this, LaLota's message of lower taxes, energy independence, secure elections and defense of the constitution clearly resonated with the voters.

"This was a hard-fought campaign but I ran to serve all residents of the First Congressional District, even if they didn't vote for me, and I hope to gain the confidence of those who voted for my opponent through good, honest work to get results for our residents," he says. "I am committed to my promise of working across the aisle to improve the lives of all Long Islanders."

Now, though, is where the real work begins.

It is clear that LaLota is determined to hit the ground running. He has already identified respected and qualified community members to be part of his staff. LaLota, like all members of Congress, will open an office in the Capitol, and an office in district, to serve as a community resource.

"We are working on a permanent setup that includes an accessible flagship office near the highway in the Hauppauge area with satellite office hours in two locations more accessible to East End residents. Due to the previous NY-01 flagship office in Patchogue now being redistricted out of the district, we are temporarily taking over the previous NY-03 flagship office at 478 A Park Avenue in Huntington that is now located in NY-01," LaLota says.

The congressman says he will "get to work on restoring American energy independence."

"One of the root causes of the skyrocketing prices of wholesale and consumer goods is a failed energy policy that limits American energy production while putting a heavy reliance on our geopolitical adversaries for energy and items of basic necessity. I know American energy independence has bipartisan support because of the reception this idea got at "Meet the Candidates" forums in our communities," LaLota says.

And, while the U.S. Capitol may be 317 miles away from Southampton, LaLota pledges to keep the needs of East Enders his main focus while serving in Congress.

Todd Shapiro is an award-winning publicist and associate publisher of Dan's Papers.



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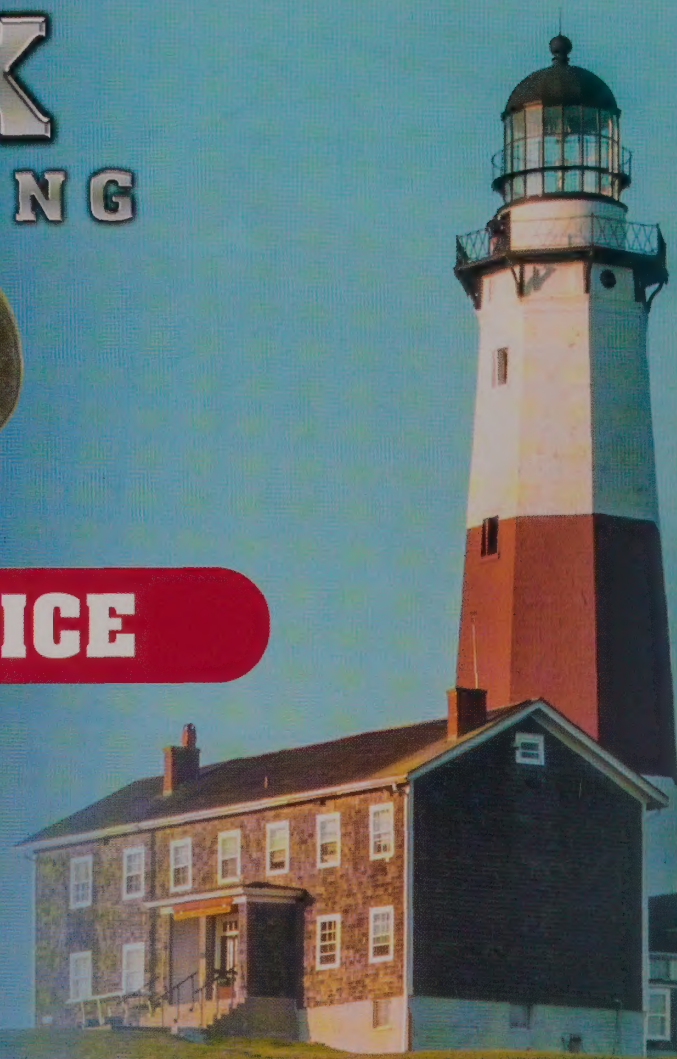


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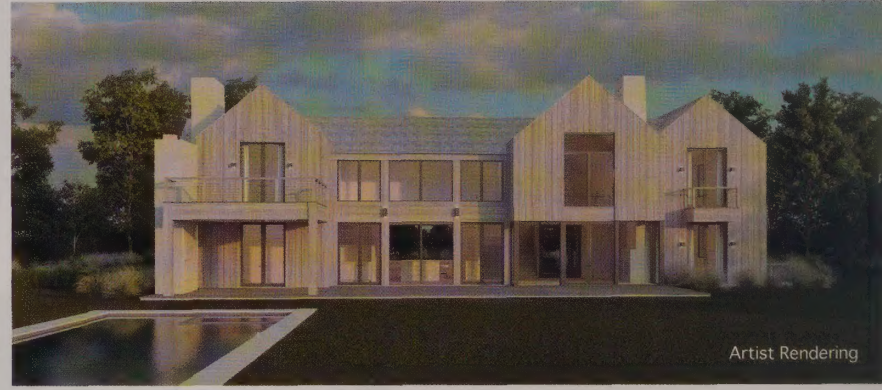
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